

THE INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 1996

WEATHER: Overcast, cold and misty

(R 45P) 40p



THE TABLOID
Aids: the new
battlefield



THE TABLOID
Bridget Jones:
hell on skis



COMMENT
Why do
black men
go mad?

Abuse scandal hits Merseyside

EXCLUSIVE

Roger Dobson

Police have launched a third major investigation into allegations of sexual and physical abuse in children's homes in the North-west, this time on Merseyside where a team of detectives is trying to trace 3,000 former residents of the homes.

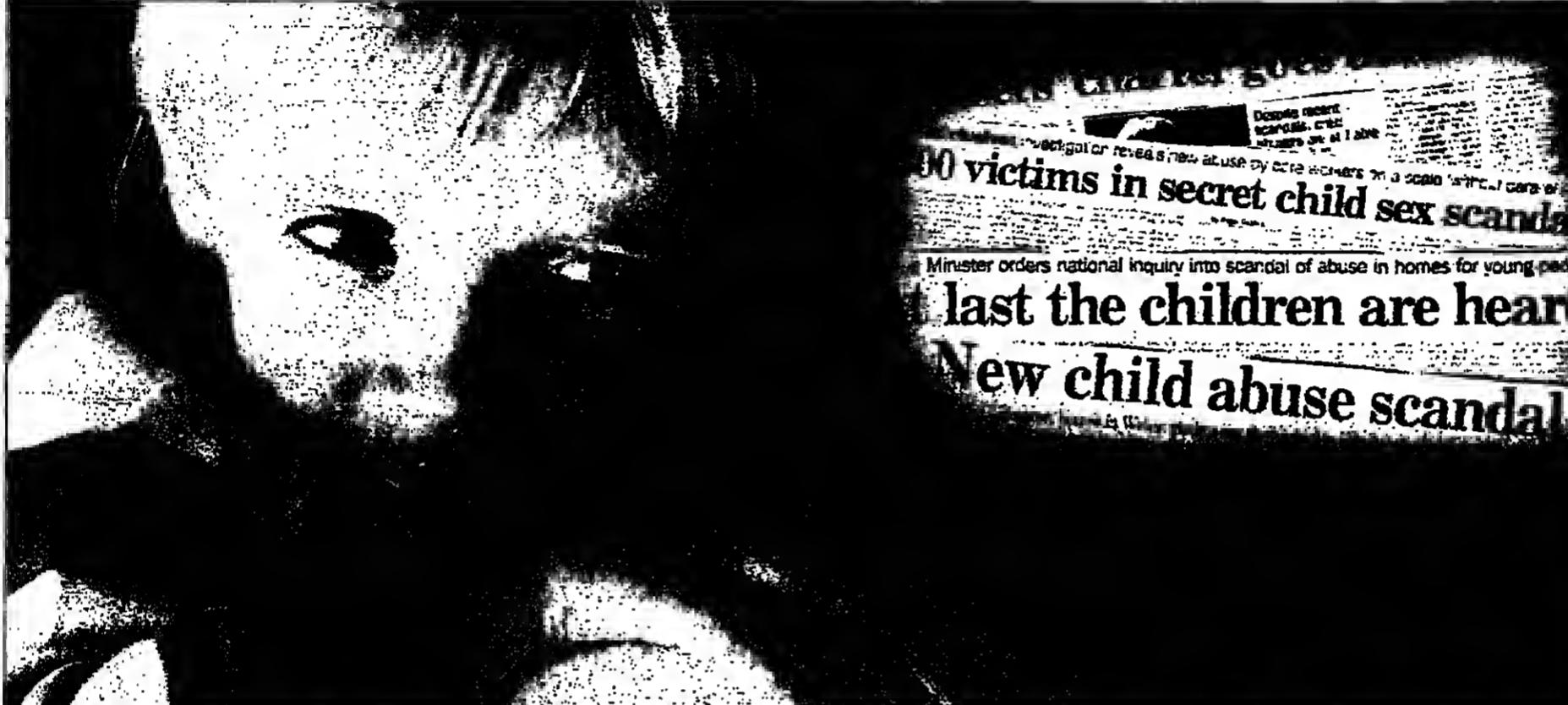
The Merseyside investigation, centred on 15 children's homes and covering allegations stretching back over the last 20 years, comes hard on the heels of inquiries into widespread abuse in homes in North Wales and Cheshire.

It will fuel claims that there was paedophile activity stretching across the North-west and beyond in the 1970s and into the 1980s, with children being moved between homes in the region and abused systematically.

A team of 20 detectives set up by Merseyside Police to investigate the allegations of abuse which date back to the 1970s are expected to work for at least the next 12 months on the inquiry, which may be extended to other homes.

As *The Independent* revealed earlier this year, in neighbouring Cheshire nearly 4,000 former residents of homes have been traced by a special squad of detectives leading Britain's biggest investigation into institutional child abuse. Several former care workers have been jailed and the investigation is still under way.

Across the border in Cwymyd, half a dozen care workers have been jailed for offences against children, and a £1m judicial



Catalogue of tragedy: *The Independent's* Christmas appeal will help victims of abuse. For details, see page 2. Picture posed by a model

Photograph: NSPCC

difficult to fill, and were often run in isolation from the main social services departments. Children were also frequently transferred between homes and the workers themselves regularly changed jobs.

One detective involved in the North-west investigations said, "I don't think there was an organised and structured paedophile ring as it is commonly seen. It was people attracted to the work for the wrong reason and then networking. I interviewed a convicted paedophile in prison and he said the key was like-minded people. He told me, 'If I walk into a room I know within three minutes the people who think like me.'"

Earlier this year *The Independent* campaigned to improve conditions in children's homes, introduce better training programmes for staff and for tighter controls on the activities of convicted paedophiles, some of whom had found it easy to move around the homes.

The Government subsequently ordered a national inquiry into the systematic sexual and physical abuse suffered by hundreds if not thousands of young people. It also announced plans for a national register of convicted sex offenders, including an index of paedophiles.

While a largest police inquiries have been launched in the northwest, there have been other scandals involving homes in Leicestershire, Islington, north London and other cases have emerged in Norfolk, Hereford and Worcester, Essex and Berkshire.

How you can help, page 2
Leading article, page 13

Through the night shopping this Christmas

Glenda Cooper

This Christmas you can go right off your trolley. Two major supermarket chains have announced all-night opening in the final seasonal rush. For those who like to leave stuffing their basket to the very last moment, Safeway and Asda are opening some of their stores all day and night up to Christmas Eve.

It is the latest move in a battle between supermarkets for shoppers' loyalty - following singles nights, pensioners' happy hours and blokes' nights to help men panicking about what to buy partners for Christmas.

A spokeswoman for Tesco said yesterday it was also considering opening some of its stores for a non-stop shop, among other options. In fact, it is known that some of the larger Tesco stores in the South have already drawn up plans for 24-hour opening.

Sainsbury, Somerfield and Whitbread have decided against 24-hour opening, contenting themselves instead with extended hours. A spokeswoman for Sainsbury's said that stores would be open until 10pm on the Monday: "We have experience of all-night shopping in America but we didn't feel that there would be the level of customer demand to justify staying open all night in Britain."



So where is this depraved and violent diet? Not on my telly.

by Suzanne Moore

Yesterday Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, launched a four-point package to crack down on explicit violence on television.

This should please those who have been salivating over "the dark and brutal side of television" for some time, although with its emphasis on violence rather than sex this is doubtful.

Also doubtful is whether this ineffectual package will persuade us that the Government, spurred on by the demands for a "moral revival" in the wake of the London headmaster Philip Lawrence's murder and the Dunblane tragedy, is trying to reduce the general level of violence in society.

It is fairly easy, after all, to find a consensus around the on-screen representation of violence. Most parents are far more concerned about scenes of violence than on-screen sex, although the two are always linked as if they were equally objectionable.

Right-wingers have been calling for a crackdown on "the degrading diet of sex, drugs and violence" that we feed our children.

Note that violence comes in only at third place, after sex and drugs. This degrading "diet of



Controversial kiss: Incest between brother and sister in Channel 4's *Brookside*

sex, drugs and violence" is found, apparently, in the most popular of the pre-watershed programming - *EastEnders*. *The Bill* and *Brookside* are singled out for particular condemnation.

As always one has to wonder whether those who feel that our nation's youth is being corrupted by soap operas actually watch any of these programmes.

Certainly children, unlike those who would save us from ourselves and from our televi-

sions, appear to grasp that they are watching drama rather than documentary.

The soaps are also, in their own way, intensely moralistic - promoting as they do the value notions of neighbourliness, and community and family life.

The controversial incest storyline of *Brookside* did not need to carry government health warning: "Don't try this at home, kids," because rather than in any way glamorising in-

cest it has made it look relentlessly dreary, with the siblings Nai and Georgie constantly arguing or crying while the lives of the rest of their family is destroyed.

EastEnders is also being persecuted for the shooting of the character Ian Beale yet what has really upset the new moralists is not any kind of violence but the gay kiss between Tony and Simon and the programme's discussion of HIV.

Programmes that do contain

violence, like *Prime Suspect* and *Cracker*, incidentally two of our finest dramas, are already shown after the watershed.

Mrs Bottomley has voiced concern about the number of children who have television sets in their bedrooms yet surely this is a problem of parenting rather than broadcasting.

Pressing for more rigorous observance of the watershed will do little to change the numbers of unsupervised children viewing unsuitable programmes.

Crimewatch and all those other crime reconstruction programmes, I would suggest, are unsuitable viewing both for children and for discerning adults.

Of course no one wants their children to watch scenes of gratuitous violence but on the whole the watershed is already being observed by broadcasters. Using our fear of a violent society to try and censor some of the most socially responsive drama is irresponsible.

The gratuitous linking of sex and violence only signals our own moral confusion well as making an increasingly illiberal agenda. Unless we sever this link we will never have a grown up discussion about what it is that we are truly afraid of.

It's time we did but surely the place to do it is not in front of the children.

Programmes that do contain

QUICKLY

Leah's drug warning Leah Bettis, the teenager from Essex who died after taking ecstasy on her 18th birthday last year, was advised by her best friend to take only half the tablet which claimed her life, a court has told. Page 3

Secret life of judge

One of Australia's most respected former judges, David Yeldham, who committed suicide last month, had confessed to a secret life of paying men for sex in public lavatories. Page 11

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news

Cap'n bails out frantically as boat drifts

Mr Major's *hebdomas* may be over, but he will hardly be rejoicing. Last week – as lightning cracked around the rigging – his ship was buffeted by storms of such ferocity that spars cracked, sails were rent, and salt water poured into the heads. But above the raging of the howling winds could be heard the metallic and monotonous sound of one lone voice shouting orders to the crew. "Splice the mainbrace! Batten down the hatches! The position is perfectly clear!"

Lashed to the main-mast (albeit involuntarily, courtesy of his thoughtful first and second mates) Cap'n John sang his song of defiance in the teeth of a whirlwind. Who could not have a grudging admiration for his tenacity?



There was the good ship 'Tory', all tattered sails and battered planks, but everything was eerily calm.

But there is something worse than a storm at sea, and that is the quiet afterwards. At least the ocean-tossed mariner in the storm's eye is still somehow at the centre of things, capable in some small way of controlling events. When the giant waves subside and the wind drops, he becomes quite powerless, destined to drift in his damaged boat until thirst, hunger or miraculous rescue supervenes.

Yesterday, at Prime Minister's Questions, we enjoyed few of the previous encounter's histrionics. There was the good ship *'Tory'*, all tattered sails and battered planks, but everything was eerily calm. Tony Blair circled lazily in a spanking new motor boat and called over to the PM through his loud hailer. Did

Cap'n Major agree with Sir Leon Brittan (Tory grandee and Euro commissioner) that Tory divisions on Europe were "damaging Britain's negotiating position"?

The problem for the PM was that if he simply replied "yes", then the obvious answer would be for him and his party to bicker off. So he tried suggesting that (a) "when the House of Commons is divided on any issue", Britain's position was weakened (a silly analysis, since this has never happened and we have still won two world wars) and (b) "what also weakens it is that many of the socialist governments in Europe are expecting an easy ride" were there a Labour government (that is everyone expects the Tories to hugger off soon and will not take him seriously).

The Labour leader's propellers churned their easy passage through the calm waters the pilot adjusting his yachting cap and continuing thus, "could I just suggest to the Prime Minister that there is less clear water between him, one part of his Cabinet, and this side of the House than between him and most of his own party?" And indeed Tony's sleek prow did seem to be nudging the shivered timbers of SS *Tory*. "The position is perfectly clear," mumbled the PM through cracked lips.

When Mr Blair sat back down and turned his helm for land, practically all that could be heard was the plaintive cry of the seagulls (I say Nigel Evans desperately talking up the threat of the minimum wage to his "beautiful" Ribble Valley) and all that could be seen – in the shape of *Irene Gorman* (Tory Europhobe, Billericay) – was a glimpse of circling shark's fin. Was he aware, bubbled Jaws?

Menacingly, that a MORI poll in Essex showed that 66 per cent wanted out of Europe, gnash? Time for a referendum, surely? "What this country needs is a rational debate about Europe," was Mr Major's best response.

The most telling moment of all, however, occurred when Lynne Jones (Labour; Birmingham, Selly Oak) asked whether he should not now resign as Prime Minister. "The simple answer," said the defiant Cap'n, "is NO!" And there was complete silence, save for the faint gurgle of a vessel steadily slipping water.

significant shorts

Former IRA terrorist to meet MPs

Explorer's polar crossing in jeopardy

The attempt by British adventurer Sir Ranulph Fiennes to become the first man to walk alone and unsupported across the Antarctic is in jeopardy because he is suffering from kidney stones.

Twenty-six days into the journey, Fiennes is said to be in excruciating pain and has been forced to stop. The next 48 hours will be crucial as he melts down snow to try to flush the stones through his body. It is feared he may be forced to abandon the attempt, which was intended to raise £1m for the breast cancer charity Breakthrough.

Thames to get new bridge

A British team has beaten off the challenge of 225 other entrants in an international competition to design London's first pedestrian bridge.

The Millennium Bridge will be London's first new river crossing for more than a century. It will link two of the capital's most significant public spaces and buildings – St Paul's Cathedral to the north and the area around the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art and the Globe Theatre to the south – creating a new route between the north and south banks of the river.

The winning team is headed by Foster + Partners (architects), Sir Anthony Caro (sculptor), and Ove Arup & Partners (consulting engineers).

Caravaggio goes unsold

An oil painting, believed to be Caravaggio's first known canvas, failed to reach its reserve price of £250,000 at auction in London yesterday. Dealers at yesterday's auction seemed unmoved even though it was the first time that a work attributed to the Old Master had come up for auction for over 50 years. The portrait, entitled *Young Boy Peeling Fruit*, had been considered "lost" for 400 years. David Lister

Fur ban to be challenged

Animal welfare campaigners are urging Sir Leon Brittan, the EU trade commissioner, to take a robust stand today when he is challenged by the Canadians over a ban on fur imports.

European environment ministers last Monday rejected a proposal that would have allowed continued trade in furs from countries using steel-jawed traps to catch live animals. The US and Canada are the main exporters. From 1 April, customs officers will have to implement a ban on furs from 13 species, including beaver, sable and ermine, that was originally planned for January 1996. Exports to Britain from the US and Canada are worth around £14.3m and £6.2m a year respectively. Stephen Goodwin

90 held in police raids

Police in Merseyside arrested 90 people yesterday in a string of early morning raids as the latest phase of the Operation Bumblebee campaign against burglars. Stolen goods and drugs were recovered.

Short shrift for new drink

The drinks industry and a major charity rounded yesterday on a new product which is claimed to "convert alcohol faster" and help revellers stay sober despite indulging. They said there was no medical evidence to show Exit, a fizzy bitter lemon drink containing fructose and quinine, could speed the body's processes.

Correction

The photograph published on page 3 yesterday was of Westminster Cathedral, not the Brompton Oratory as stated in the caption.



Nice touch: The Cambridge linesman at yesterday's Varsity rugby match honouring tradition by sporting a blazer. Match report, page 24

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

| OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Austria | £640 |
| Belgium | £140 |
| Canada | £1600 |
| Cyprus | £212 |
| Denmark | £118 |
| Ireland | £45 |
| France | £124 |
| Germany | £145 |
| Greece | £450 |
| Luxembourg | £700 |
| Malta | £50 |
| Netherlands | £50 |
| Italy | £4,500 |
| Spain | £3,000 |
| Sweden | £621 |
| Switzerland | £140 |
| UK | £3,000 |
| USA | £10,768 |
| Other countries | £206.70 |

BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the Independent are available from:

Hearst Newspapers, telephone 01988 640270.

More food poisoning cases in Scotland

Steve Boggan
Chief Reporter

The Government's handling of food safety was described as "appalling" yesterday as six more cases of E. coli poisoning were recorded in Scotland and a fresh – but unconnected – outbreak hit Lancashire.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal-Democrat leader, condemned the Tories' handling of food crises, particularly BSE, and called for the introduction of an American-style Food and Drugs Administration.

There were no more deaths yesterday in central Scotland, where E. coli food poisoning has claimed 10 lives, but the numbers of those thought to have been affected rose to 394.

In Pendle, Lancashire, four children and two adults were

confirmed as being infected with the E. coli 0157 bacterium, according to the East Lancashire Health Authority. An investigation was under way to discover the source. All those infected, including two girls under four years of age, were said to be improving in hospital.

As calls continued for a judicial public inquiry into the outbreak in Scotland, instead of the more formal and potentially limited fatal accident inquiry, Mr Ashdown launched a bitter attack on the Government.

The Liberal Democrat leader told the National Consumers' Council in London that problems with food would continue as long as responsibility for food safety and quality rested in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, which also represented the interests of food

producers. Labour, too, continued to call for a public inquiry, while Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, defended the fatal accident inquiries given the task of examining the infection in Lancashire.

The fatal accident inquiry, an independent judicial hearing, will take place in public but it cannot sit while criminal proceedings are being considered or are underway. Its critics say its remit may be too limited.

The remit of a second inquiry, by a Government-appointed group of experts, is to examine the circumstances which led to the outbreak ... and to advise on the implications for food safety and the general lessons to be learned. The seven-member committee is expected to report soon.

How you can help heal the suffering children

Glenda Cooper

At the end of a year where *The Independent* has campaigned for victims of child abuse scandals to be given a voice, we would like you to support our Victims of Abuse appeal to help children whose lives have been devastated.

Our Christmas appeal is in support of projects run by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, including its helpline, and direct support to help children who have been abused and to help prevent fu-

ture abuse. The terrible toll of years of abuse suffered by more than 100 children in Clwyd was first reported by *The Independent* and was the launch-pad for a campaign which eventually won government action to tighten standards in children's homes.

But countless children's stories have never been heard. The NSPCC, Britain's leading charity specialising in child protection runs over 120 projects throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland offering counselling and therapy to abused children as well as carrying out its own in-

vestigations into allegations of child abuse.

The charity relies on donations for 85 per cent of its income. We would like you to contribute between now and Christmas. Your money will go to help projects such as the NSPCC's freephone helpline which takes on average 1,200 calls a week, the London Investigation Team, which works with police and social services to investigate paedophiles and the Kaleidoscope project in Newcastle which treats children who have abused others.

Leading article, page 13

THE INDEPENDENT/NSPCC Victims of Abuse Appeal

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New measures will target clubland in attempt to check rising toll of drug casualties among young people

Sound advice to stop dance of death

Charlie Bain

Clubs and drugs - the two have been inextricably linked since the 1980s, when ecstasy lit the fuse for an explosion of dance music and rave culture. According to government figures, around one million tablets of ecstasy, known as the "bug drug", are sold in Britain each week. But there have been casualties: 100 ecstasy-related deaths in Britain over the past eight years. Yesterday, new guidelines were brought in to try to cut the number of young people killed by the drug.

The new measures, drawn up by the London Drug Policy Forum, an organisation funded by the Corporation of London and the Home Office, urges London's 33 licensing authorities to work closer with nightclub owners and rave promoters to minimise the risks associated with the drug.

Under the title *Dance Till Dawn Safely*, the campaign will target the capital's 200 weekly dance events. The Forum hopes that every London borough will have the scheme in operation by the time next year and that local authorities across the country will follow in the capital's footsteps within time.

The guidelines stress greater emphasis on reducing overcrowding and overheating in

clubs, increasing the availability of drinking water and ensuring that all clubs have rest areas where clubbers can cool down. The Code of Good Practice also includes the firm recommendation that all councils should set up registration schemes for door supervisors, making sure they are trained in recognising drug-related problems and have no criminal record.

At yesterday's launch in south east London, Peter Rigby, the LDPPF's chairman, said that the Forum was aware of the difficulty in preventing young people from taking drugs and that the over-riding purpose of the Code was to keep people safe, raise awareness and stop more young people from dying.

"The best way to keep safe is to not take any drugs at all," he said.

"However, we live in the real world and at the moment we know that young people will take drugs. It is vital that we do all in our power to keep them safe."

Rigby said that many club owners believe that their clubs are not involved in the rave culture and claim that measures to reduce the risk of drug taking are unnecessary.

We would counter this argument by pointing out the impossibility of making any club



Closing the doors: Since the drug explosion in British clubs, there have been calls to eradicate ecstasy from the rave scene. Photograph: Rex Features

The agony of ecstasy

- According to government figures, 800,000 young people in the UK have tried ecstasy.
- Initially enjoyed by yuppies, the drug emerged in Britain in 1982 from New York.
- The Home Office estimates that 10 per cent of 14 to 19-year-olds have experimented with ecstasy and nearly half have been offered the drug.
- It was originally an appetite-suppressant for German troops, patented in 1914.
- Chemical recipes for making ecstasy are now circulated on the Internet.

100% drug free," he said.

"Even if dealing is eradicated, club-goers may still take drugs before they arrive and may still experience drug-related problems."

The general consensus about the contents of yesterday's launch was that the new measures were merely re-literring old concerns. However, the introduction of a door supervisor

ry scheme was welcomed by council bosses and the police as a way of combating the growing problem of disruptive bouncers who deal in drugs.

The LDPPF's policy adviser, Alyson Morley, said that the Forum wanted to see bouncers from reputable firms without criminal records who are properly trained in first aid and in recognising drug-related prob-

lems. She said that metal detectors should be installed to prevent weapons being bought in clubs and that doormen should alert management of clubbers caught with drugs, logging the offence in an incident book which should be kept for a year. The news was welcomed by Superintendent Martin Jauch of the Metropolitan Police's Clubs and Vice squad who said

re-iterating a debate that has been raging for four years now, but anything that ensures the safety of the clientele should be welcomed and implemented," he said.

"Many of the reputable clubs in the city already have these policies in operation but I'm sure that many do not."

Many leading London club owners yesterday welcomed the LDPPF's proposals as a way of producing a consistent standard amongst the capital's clubs which can only help to raise the tarnished reputation of the city's rave scene. One leading night-club owner Andy Martin, who co-owns the up-and-coming Linford Studios club in south west London said the proposals will pull some of the less reputable clubs in to line.

"The proposals are basically

re-literring a debate that has been raging for four years now, but anything that ensures the safety of the clientele should be welcomed and implemented," he said.

"Many of the reputable clubs in the city already have these policies in operation but I'm sure that many do not."

Linford Studios is a classic example of a club that runs a slick safety and security policy.

Opened earlier this year, it has a resident nurse on site and operates a stringent security operation which includes plain clothes bouncers roaming the club spotting potential drug dealers.

"It is the only option in my opinion," said Mr Martin, "and there is no doubt that it makes people feel safer."

"And when these self-same visitors visit Brighton, the government assumes they are the 32nd most deprived people. When they go to Norwich, it assumes they are the 62nd most deprived. It's the same story all over the country."

Councillor Nick Markham, deputy leader of Westminster Council, said the attack was simply an attempt by Labour to smear the borough because it was efficient and its council taxes, which stood at £295 per head, were less than half the national average of £600.

"I could get into a lies, damn lies and statistics debate and say that for every rich tourist there is a poor asylum-seeker. We have far more of these than we have visitors to the Ritz. This is just another one of their attempts to find a reason why we are more efficient."

Jury hears how Leah was 'sorted' with drugs

Leah Berts was warned about the ecstasy tablet which claimed her life, a court was told yesterday. Her best friend, Sarah Cargill, told Norwich Crown Court she had advised Leah to take only half the tablet.

Miss Cargill, 18, said she was concerned the tablet was stronger than the ecstasy Leah had experienced with before. But she said Leah swallowed the whole pill and collapsed into a coma three hours later. Leah died after celebrating her 18th birthday at her parent's home in Latchington, Essex, in November last year.

The court has been told how she obtained the drug through a network of friends. A jury of six men and six women heard that Stephen Smith, 19, of Basildon, Essex, has admitted being involved in the supply of the drug. But Steven Packman, 18, of Laindon, Essex, denies being involved in the supply of the drug.

The jury was told how Leah and Miss Cargill had decided to buy ecstasy for Leah's birthday party on 11 November. Miss Cargill of Basildon, Essex, had asked a college friend, Louise Yeatley, 18, also of Basildon, if she could help. Miss Yeatley had then asked her boyfriend, Mr Smith, who went to a nightclub in Essex with Mr

Packman in the hope of finding the drug. He told the jury Mr Packman bought the drug from an unknown dealer at the nightclub, Raquel's, the night before the party was due to take place. Miss Cargill said she and Leah each paid Mr Smith £22.50 for a total of four tablets. She and Leah took them around 8pm at the party on 11 November.

Miss Cargill said that in the past she and Leah had taken tablets with a dove motif on them but the ones Mr Smith brought had an apple motif. Because of that, Miss Cargill said, she advised Leah only to take half a tablet. Leah ignored that advice and Miss

Cargill also herself swallowed a whole tablet. Miss Cargill said it did not affect her any differently in previous tablets. Leah was also smoking cannabis at the party, she said.

Miss Cargill said she and Leah started to experiment with drugs in 1995. They began with "things like cannabis", then took whizz, better known as amphetamine. They also tried LSD and on four previous occasions took ecstasy.

The court heard earlier how Leah's father, Paul, a former policeman, and stepmother, Janet, a nurse, spent most of the evening in their kitchen while the party was going on.

Late on they had gone to the bedroom to find Leah obviously ill. Before lapsing into a coma, she told them that she had taken an ecstasy tablet which had been supplied to her by Mr Smith.

Miss Cargill told the jury she and Leah had visited Raquel's in the past but stopped after a row with a barmy. She said she and Leah had previously bought drugs in the club and outside the club. The court heard that Leah, Miss Cargill, Mr Smith and Mr Packman had all attended the same school - St Nicholas in Laindon.

The trial was adjourned until tomorrow.



Leah: Warned by friend

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politics

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

SCRDRING THE EXCHANGES

John Major
5/10

Tony Blair
4/10

THEMES OF THE DAY

- Conservative minority government (Archie Kirkwood L Dem., Roxburgh and Berwickshire, Dr Lynne Jones Lab., Birmingham Selly Oak)
- Violence on TV (Michael Alison, C. Selby)
- Grammar schools (Teddy Taylor, C. Southend E)
- Recent MORI poll on Europe (Teresa Gorman, C. Billericay)

BLAIR'S ATTACK

Blair began by asking whether Major agreed with Sir Leon Brittan that Conservative divisions were weakening Britain's position in Europe. Major agreed that when the Commons was divided on any issue, any negotiating position was weakened. He added that Socialist governments in Europe were waiting to take advantage of a Labour government after the election. Major appeared to be giving credence to the idea of a Labour victory.

GODD DAY,



Sir Teddy Taylor - On a day when the Euroscepticism was to the fore again, he staggered everyone by asking a question about something completely different - grammar schools.

THE QUIP OF THE DAY

What looked like a Speaker's jest - no sooner had Major declared "the splits on that side of the House are seismic" and sat down, Betty Boothroyd called out "Mrs Gorman". The Member for Billericay stood up to personify the Tory rift.

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

On Budget changes to war pension administration: "Will the Prime Minister confirm that civil servants estimate that over and above any administrative changes, 16,000 war pensioners will lose out as a result of those changes?" Mr Major was not specific, but replied with a blanket denial that there would be any losers.

THE CREEP OF THE DAY

Nigel Evans (C, Ribble Valley) made the day's obligatory "my constituency is lovely, Labour wants to ruin it" statement. "My Rt Hon friend will know, because he has visited the Ribble Valley, that it is a beautiful part of England . . ." he began. The question did not improve in the asking.

Compiled by Bert Summers

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Tax burden higher than in 1970s

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

The two leaders agreed on almost everything. Blair's questions seemed designed to impale Major on his weekend interview. The Prime Minister could hardly repudiate it.

Blair observed, in a roundabout way, that the Conservative front bench had more in common with Labour on Europe than they had with the Eurosceptics. It should have been a draw, but he loses a point for his predictable "If they can't be trusted to run themselves how can they be trusted to run . . . this . . . country?"

The tax burden is not only higher than it was when Labour left office in 1979, but also exceeds the figure for 1974, when Harold Wilson led a minority Labour government, according to a Treasury brief on the Budget.

A remarkably partisan document, the brief says: "UK burden of tax and public spending [is] lower than almost any other EU country, including Germany, France and Italy."

But a table then shows that

on the basis of provisional OECD data for 1995, while the domestic tax burden - at 35.2 per cent of national income - is indeed lower than that of Germany (39.1 per cent), France (44.5 per cent), and Italy (41.8 per cent), it is still higher than it was 20 years ago.

According to the OECD, the UK tax burden was 34.9 per cent in 1974, compared with 32.6 per cent in 1979, 34.1 per cent in 1994, and 35.2 per cent last year.

The Treasury's own figures show the tax burden rising inexorably between 1996-97 and 2001-02.

The Budget brief has previously been classed as a confidential document, but has been "declassified" and made available to *The Independent* following a formal request for disclosure under the terms of the Government's code of open government - and a successful appeal. It is also to be made available on the Internet.

But the document that has been released this year is notable for the omission of some of the more controversial data that could be used as ammunition against the Government. One source said it had been "fil-

leted". The brief used to include, for example, calculations on the tax burden for the average family - including indirect taxes. But this year's brief is restricted to "tax as a percentage of earnings for a family on average earnings... Income tax and National Insurance contributions."

The Treasury is currently sitting on a parliamentary question about the overall tax burden, including indirect taxes, put by Opposition Treasury spokesman Alistair Darling before the Budget.

Summing up the Govern-

ment tax record, the brief said: "Highest marginal rate is now 40 per cent compared with 98 per cent before 1978-79. Since 1978-79 marginal tax rates on earnings have fallen but marginal tax rates on spending have risen."

The Treasury brief also contains a table from a Social Security analysis, "Households Below Average Income", showing that while overall average disposable income has increased by 40 per cent in real terms, after housing costs, between 1979 and 1993-94, it has fallen by 13 per cent for the bottom 10 per cent, according to "uncertain" Family Expenditure Survey figures.



Love and affection: Tony Banks with a friend in London Zoo's reptile house yesterday. The MP has put down a Commons motion, signed by 32 others, protesting at the destruction of 1,000 tortoises by the Swedish authorities

Photograph: David Rose

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

An alliance of 33 tortoise-loving MPs have protested to the Swedish authorities after they froze 1,000 illegally imported specimens to death. The animals were destroyed despite offers from both the British-based Tortoise Trust and the SAS airline to cover the cost of returning them to Tadzhikistan.

The trust has now called for a boycott of Swedish goods until Oxfam promises to deal more humanely with future cases.

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North East, has put down a Commons motion on the subject which has been signed by 32 other parliamentary tortoise fanciers.

A European Union import ban on Mediterranean tortoises has raised retail prices to between £90 and £130. As a result, smuggling is common and there have been a number of cases of "tortoise rustling".

Although the Swedish consignment was not Russian, Hursfield's tortoises, which can be imported, was impounded at Arlanda airport in Stockholm because its importer did not have the correct paperwork.

The animals were kept in the airport for a week, during which time the Tortoise Trust, alerted through a tortoise-lovers' Internet site, tried to persuade the authorities to repatriate them. But at the end of October they were put into a refrigerated container which killed them within a few hours. Jill Martin, who runs the Tortoise Trust sanctuary in Wales, said: "We got the strong impression that there wasn't really any intention of doing anything other than destroying them."

The Swedish Chargé d'Affaires in London, Marten Grunditz, said there was no rescue cordon to Sweden willing to take the animals, and they were not fit for transportation.

Quangos fall to the cull but their costs just rise and rise

Why Labour will resist a top rate of tax: Donald Macintyre, page 15

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executive bodies, which have staff and spending powers, have increased their expenditure. Therefore, while the number of NDBPs has fallen from 2,197 in 1979 to 1,194 this year, spending on them has increased from £3bn to £18bn over that period.

The definition of what bodies are included in the report is controversial. While quangos have proliferated in education and health, such as hospital trusts and grant-maintained schools, the Government does not include the 429 hospital trusts or the 100 health authorities because these are local bodies with no national interest.

So farewell the Physical Activity Task Force, the Nutrition Task Force, the Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committee, Going for Green and the National Breastfeeding Working Group. Several new town development corporations, the seven river purification boards and the London Residuary Body, which dealt with the remains of both the Greater London Council and the Inner London Education Authority have also been axed.

Despite the Government's reluctance to create any new bodies, enter the Local Government Residuary Body, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Protection Against Unlawful Industrial Action, the Scottish Water and Sewerage Customers' Council, Volunteering Partnership and the Pensions Ombudsman.

All bodies are subject to a review of their relevance every five years but this does not prevent the continued survival of bizarre sounding bodies, ranging from the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, which spent £1.44m last year, the Wine Standards Board of the Vintners' Company, which spent £456,000, and the Secretary of State for Scotland's (Electricity) Fisheries Committee which has six members and spends £3 per year.

The trend has been that advisory bodies, which spend little, have been axed but

compared with 23 per cent and 2 per cent five years ago. The department with the best record on gender is the Home Office, with women comprising 41 per cent of its 1,300 appointments. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries manages just 9 per cent of women from its 1,400 appointments.

The document shows that many chief executives of these bodies earn more than £100,000 a year. Andrew Foster, the controller of the Audit Commission, which oversees the spending of local councils and the health service in England and Wales, is paid £140,841 a year while the chief executive of English Partnerships earns £126,000. Other chief executives on six figure salaries include those heading the London Docklands Development Corporation (£112,901) and the Victoria and Albert Museum (£108,080).

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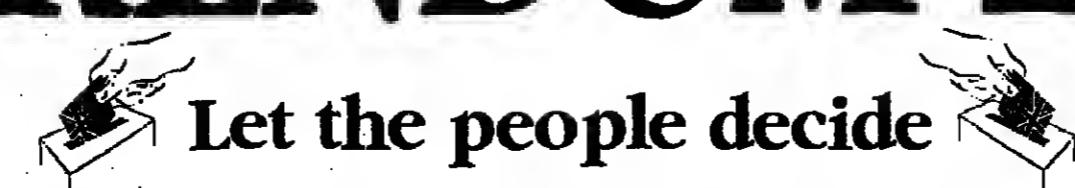
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news

Lottery handout fails to make up charity shortfall

Liz Hunt

Health Editor

Medical research charities yesterday received £6.7m of National Lottery money – about two-thirds of the average jackpot – in the first round of payments to the sector which claims it has been hardest hit by the weekly draw.

The Association of Medical Research Charities acknowledged the grants as a “good start” but said the sum involved was disappointing. The largest grant announced yesterday is less than one thousandth of the biggest single sum of lottery money awarded so far, £55m to the Royal Opera House.

The overall income of more than 90 charities represented by the association fell by £21m (about 6 per cent) in 1995-1996, the first decrease in 12 years. The advent of the National Lottery is said to be a significant factor, particularly for the smaller organisations which rely on “small change” donations.

A spokeswoman for the association said yesterday that restrictions imposed on applicants for lottery funding had severely affected the outcome. Applications were limited to a single project rather than a

programme of research. This resulted in the national medical research charities such as the Cancer Research Campaign and the British Diabetic Association having to compete with local organisations for funding.

“For the bigger medical charities this is like choosing between Rwanda and Bosnia – do they seek funding for breast cancer or bowel cancer?” she said.

Medical charities, especially the larger ones providing a

Restrictions on applicants severely affected the outcome

wide range of services in addition to their research role which had previously been the recipients of lottery money, were excluded from this round of applications, the spokeswoman added.

“There is a case for the national charities being considered separately in the future,” she said.

Yesterday’s awards by the National Lottery Charities Board will fund research into

Earl’s folly shows off its finest features



In the round: The team working on the glass canopy under the dome at Ickworth House in Suffolk (inset) as the five-year restoration plan begins. Photographs: John Voss

The National Trust is giving 200-year-old Ickworth House a facelift, reports Stephen Goodwin

The sound of breaking glass above a 70ft-high scaffold signalled the start this week of major renovation work at one of England’s more eccentric country houses.

Ickworth House, near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, is a vast rotunda, with wings to either side, conceived by the fourth Earl of Bristol 200 years ago. The earl, who was also bishop of the wealthy see of Derry, wanted somewhere fitting to display the works of Renaissance art he was gathering on European tours.

Inspired by the round house built by John Paw on Belle Isle in Lake Windermere, Cumbria, he began work on the fabulous building – really an oval – in 1795. But it was still a shell when he died in Italy in 1803 and his collections were captured in Rome during the Napoleonic wars.

The glass canopy or “laylight” being removed this week screened off the over-filled upper floor from the magnificent entrance hall and staircase

below. It had become unsafe and is being replaced by opaque safety glass in a £63,000 restoration programme this winter by the National Trust.

Ickworth remained the home of the rich Hervey family, which amassed further collections. There are fine English portraits, Old Masters, silver, porcelain and furniture and is one of NT’s premier properties, with 75,000 visitors a year.

But Ickworth has been as much a drain on the charity’s funds as it was on the Herveys’

– heating alone costs £8,000 a year. The property passed to the trust in 1956 in lieu of death duties.

The fourth marquess feared, with justification, that his successors would sell the collections. Last summer, the seventh marquess, John Hervey, raised more than £1m in an auction of the contents of his apartment in the east wing.

Replacing the laylight is part of a five-year restoration plan. There are 270 panes of glass in

the canopy, set in ornate plasterwork. A clear panel will enable visitors to look up into the dome. The entrance hall and staircase will also be repainted for the first time since 1968.

Paint scrapes have revealed the colours commissioned in 1827 by the earl-bishop’s son, the first marquess. Instead of nondescript Sixties emulsion, the hall will be a warm stone colour and there will be painted marble detail on the columns in time for the spring reopening.

A High Court judge yesterday rejected an attempt to prevent “executive-style” homes being

built by the Prince of Wales’s

favourite property developer at Downe Hall, near Bridport, Dorset. CG Fry and Son want to convert the Grade 2-listed hall

into five flats and build eight

houses with garages in the 18th-

century landscaped grounds. N

Justice Latham described the hall as “at one time a fine house” which had fallen into disrepair with unkempt gardens.

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Heritage Secretary expresses concern to network chiefs, but a bigger threat hangs over the airwaves



Not such soft soap: Mrs Bottomley is worried about violence on shows watched by young children. Recent instances have included (left to right) a shooting in *EastEnders* and disturbing scenes in *Cracker* and *Brookside*

Bottomley wields stick on TV violence

Marianne Macdonald
Media Correspondent

Virginia Bottomley yesterday stepped up her crusade against violence on television, but failed to win significant concessions from regulators.

The Secretary of State for National Heritage announced new measures following a meeting with Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC, Sir George Russell, chairman of the

Independent Television Commission (ITC), and Lady Howe, chairwoman of the Broadcasting Standards Council.

The summit followed Mrs Bottomley's demand last month that all three produced reports suggesting how to reduce television violence.

Yesterday the three agreed a four-point plan, but it appeared to promise little advance on existing regulation. They pledged to "continue to ensure that

programme makers maintain proper standards" and "firmly deal with transgressions; educate viewers about programme codes and the watershed; revise their codes of practice - apart from the BBC, which has just done so - and explore how to improve the signalling of violent programmes on screen, on teletext and in listings.

Mrs Bottomley also published the results of a consultation exercise earlier this year

into the V-chip, the device which can be installed inside television sets to blank out violent or sexual programmes automatically. But her department's paper held out little immediate hope for the V-chip in Britain. It said that there was a long way to go before it could be a useful tool, even if it proved feasible in the first place.

It warned: "There was ... a degree of scepticism that the introduction of the V-chip was

likely, at least in isolation, to be successful in addressing these concerns [about the levels of violence and its effects]."

Mrs Bottomley's concern follows a trend for crime shows and dramas to be less overtly violent but still, she thinks, unhealthy. She also believes that there is too much emphasis on crime on television generally.

A mother-of-three herself, Mrs Bottomley wants more protection for children and in-

formation for parents, and argues that repeatedly seeing violence must influence the ways people behave.

After yesterday's meeting she said: "Violence on television is a cause for concern for many viewers. I share that concern. Statistics suggest that the amount of violence on our screens is decreasing and I welcome that."

"But even so, there are times when violence seems too promi-

nent in the schedules, and this can be disturbing for many viewers, young and old."

Recently the BBC soap opera *EastEnders* has been gripped by violence with the gangland shooting of Ian Beale, while Carlton's *London Bridge* got a formal warning from the ITC over a rape scene.

Other programmes which have fallen foul of the increasingly restrictive climate include *The Bill* (Carlton), *Brookside*

(Channel 4), and even the normally sedate Australian soap *Neighbours* (BBC1).

Last night, Jack Cunningham, Labour's heritage spokesman, accused Mrs Bottomley of trying to use television violence to shore up her political credibility.

He warned: "Virginia Bottomley's crusade on television violence is a fraud. She has had the chance to act and has consistently failed to do so."

...as BBC tries to fend off Murdoch's digital assault

Matthew Horsman
Media Editor

The BBC is mounting a last-ditch effort to prevent the creation of what it fears will be a private monopoly in digital television controlled by the media mogul Rupert Murdoch.

In response to today's deadline for consultation on the Department of Trade and Industry's guidelines on digital television, the BBC will again call for mandatory licensing of the technology used to scramble and decode signals.

The war waged against television violence by Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, is sure to be seen as wholly marginal when set against the crucial question of who will control access to the 200-channel universe promised by the digital revolution.

Mr Murdoch, who controls 40 per cent of the satellite broad-

caster BSkyB, is the owner of the United Kingdom's only functioning "conditional access" technology used to drive set-top boxes. The BBC fears that he will dominate access to the digital pay-television market, just as he has controlled the gateway to analogue pay-television.

The public-service broadcaster is expected to gain limited support from the Labour Party, which is likely to call for a debate on the guidelines when they are published next week.

"Bearing in mind the heart

from the Government ... we will be calling for a debate on the matter," Geoff Hooper, Labour's spokesman on trade and industry, said yesterday. "We think these guidelines make more sense for a mature market, rather than for a new market [such as digital television]."

The BBC is expected to argue that the DTI's guidelines, which provide for the regulation of

conditional access through Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator, fall well short of what is necessary to pre-empt a monopoly. The BBC, which plans to launch as many as eight pay channels, wants to be able to operate its own subscription management system, without going through the digital gateway controlled by Mr Murdoch. It is not convinced that the current guidelines will ensure access. The Government believes Ofcom can provide a level playing field for all broadcasters.

ITV companies, represented by the ITV Association, are expected to be less critical of the guidelines. All the same, the ITA will today call on the DTI to ensure that broadcasters are able "to distribute their own smart cards, and manage and authorise subscribers".

According to a source at ITV, "these guidelines are better than nothing". He added

that ITV companies expected competing conditional access systems to develop. However, if BSkyB launches its digital satellite service next year, ITV fears Mr Murdoch could seize "first-mover" advantage. It will argue that "if there is going to be a single proprietary conditional access system in operation, it is vital that broadcasters have a choice of suppliers at the subscriber-management level".

Channel 5 said it was relaxed about the regulations. A senior source said: "We believe the BBC is making unrealistic demands, and these have been sensibly ignored by the DTI."

Suggestions that BSkyB will delay the launch of its digital service have been discounted by insiders. However, it is understood that the award of contracts to make the set-top boxes will not be made until the regulations have been approved.

Business comment, page 17

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news

Organic shoppers bottle out of going green all over



Looking ahead: An environmentally conscious recycler drops a bottle into a glass bank in east London yesterday

Photograph: John Vaas

Glenda Cooper

Green shopping is "alive and kicking" according to two polls released today, with consumers worried about the effect their purchases have on the environment. But shoppers are still reluctant to give up their tum-

ble driers, televisions, cars and other creature comforts to ensure a cleaner planet.

An exclusive MORI poll for *The Independent* found that more than one in three people think that the planet will not be able to sustain the human race if goods are redesigned in an environmentally responsible way. Only

one in eight people felt that they could carry on as they are.

Those aged 35-44 are most inclined to think the planet will not be able to sustain the human race if goods are manufactured and consumed at current rates, with more than four in ten holding this view.

Just under half of consumers, particularly those aged 15-34, want goods to be designed in an environmentally conscious way.

The results mirror a new report from the National Consumer Council (NCC) which found that one in three consumers is committed to green shopping and one in five regularly buys green. The report identifies five types of "green" shoppers: affluent greens, young greens, recyclers, careful spenders and sceptics.

Affluent greens and young greens (who together make up 36 per cent of the population) are

committed to green consumers buying unleaded petrol, using recycled products, and more likely to buy organic food.

Recyclers and careful spenders (38 per cent) also act in an environmentally friendly way, although they do not usually buy green. Only the sceptics (26 per cent) do not buy products described as environmentally friendly because they are not convinced that "green" products are better for the environment.

Launching the report, the NCC chairman David Hatch said: "Retailers tell us green products are not selling. They say that for many shoppers 'green' ... has come to sound cranky. However, our survey shows that the green consumer is alive and kicking [but] they can find neither the products nor the accurate information they need."

A MORI poll for Ark earlier this year found that while nine out of ten respondents are very or fairly concerned about the environment, when asked what they would be prepared to give up, at least 90 per cent indicated that they were not prepared to go without basic items like a television or central heating. Nearly a quarter said they would not be prepared to give down on the use of anything.

Reg Boorer, executive director of Ark, said: "As it appears that the majority of us have no intention of curbing our consumer instincts ... it places the onus firmly on designers, manufacturers and service-providers to redesign all our goods and services fundamentally more sustainable manner."

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,036 adults aged 15-plus in Great Britain from 31 October to 5 November 1996. All interviews were conducted in-home, face-to-face. Data has been weighted to the known profile of the British population. The Ark Environmental Foundation can be contacted at Suite 640-643 Linen Hall 162-168 Regent St, London W1R 5TB. Tel: 0171-439 4567.

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DAILY POEM

The Social Worker

By Ruth Silcock

*The news for you, the young man said.
Is that you have to find
A nursing home within a week.
I hope that's not unkind.
Our hospital has no more beds,
There's no more room, and so
Your mother with her mended hip,
Unmended mind, must go.*

*I have a list that you can take.
With numbers you may ring
And what the cost will be. I think
That covers everything
It's up to you. I've work to do.
No time to lose. And so
Remember, you have just one week.
Your mother has to go.*

Ruth Silcock was born in 1926 and read English at Girton College, Cambridge. Much of her working life was spent as a social worker, and many of her poems focus on the neglected, the marginalised and the unnoticed. This poem is the first of a sequence, "46 Nursing Homes", which appears in her new collection published by Anvil, *A Wonderful View of the Sea*.

Hong Kong 'elects' its post-colonial satrap, a shipping mogul once bailed out by Peking

Democrats need not apply is the message in the run-up to July's handover, writes Stephen Vines

Hong Kong - Britain formally hands over power in Hong Kong to China on July but today the real shift in power will be confirmed by selection of the first post-colonial head of government.

More than ever before, the Governor, Chris Patten, will be

more than ever before; the Governor will be marginalised

marginalised after Tung Chee-hwa, 59, a shipping tycoon, is anointed as Chief Executive.

The selection has been something of a farce, because China has dressed it up as an election, although Mr Tung was chosen in Peking a year ago.

Nevertheless, the 400 members of a body called the Selection Committee will cast majority of votes for Mr Tung today.

The two other "candidates", Sir Ti-Liang Yang, the former chief justice, and the business-

man Peter Woo, will then graciously withdraw, declaring it has been a fair race.

However, the process has been a success for Peking, anxious to persuade Hong Kong's people that they are being given their first opportunity to choose their head of government.

But, despite efforts by the colony's increasingly compliant media to portray the election campaign as a real race, there is evidence that the public have not been fooled: an opinion poll indicated that 56 per cent of respondents believed the winning candidate had been chosen in advance by China.

The farce will continue, because within days of the Chief Executive's selection, the same 400 hand-picked members of the committee making that selection will reconvene to "elect" the 60 members of a provisional legislature who will replace the Legislative Council, elected last year by the closest thing to universal suffrage Hong Kong has ever experienced.

China also intends to scrap all the other elected local-government bodies.

In so doing it will begin the



Changing the guard: Tung Chee-hwa (left), who is to succeed Chris Patten as chief executive of the territory

new era of Chinese rule with a clean slate, cleared of all the pro-democracy politicians who have consistently gained a lot of votes when genuine elections were held.

Although China may not have convinced the public it is holding a genuine election, it has succeeded in lowering ex-

pectations of finding an independent-minded candidate to hold the top office. When the process of selecting the Chief Executive started, the public made clear its desire for the top post to be filled by either Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary and Deputy Governor, or Martin Lee, leader of the Democ-

ratic Party. Mr Tung scarcely registered in the public mind.

Peking may be prepared to let Mr Chan keep her present job but she is regarded as being too closely connected with the British to win the top post. As for Mr Lee, China sees him as a subversive and beyond the pale. Nevertheless, his col-

league Szeto Wah has been put forward as the Democratic Party's candidate for the post in a propaganda exercise which has gathered 100,000 signatures.

Mr Tung has risen in opinion-poll ratings because Hong Kong people like to back a winner and because he has displayed talent as a candidate. Able to look

both cheerful and thoughtful while out and about on the campaign trail, he is taking a crash-course in learning how ordinary people live.

Unlike many Hong Kong tycoons, his story is not one of rags to riches but a background of considerable wealth originating in Shanghai. However, he was confronted with financial ruin in 1985, when the family's Orient Overseas shipping line incurred debts of \$2.68bn. China stepped in to help Mr Tung in a complex corporate rescue plan which, say his critics, left him for ever in debt to the Chinese government.

China's leaders got to know Mr Tung and liked what they saw. He was well connected internationally, at ease in three Chinese languages and English, and has charisma and leadership qualities which have been demonstrated in the business world.

Like the leaders in Peking, he is conservative and not an instinctive democrat, in spite of a decade working in America and university studies in Liverpool. His experience of politics has been gained by serving on non-elected Chinese-government advisory bodies and in the Governor's Executive Council, or cabinet, which he joined at Mr Patten's invitation after he sought to include a pro-Peking representative.

The big question about Mr

Tung is: will he do what Peking wants, or will he, as he claims, stand up for Hong Kong's interests?

Although frequently asked, the question is naive. China simply will not tolerate Hong Kong coming under the control of an independent-minded leader. At most, it will allow a small degree of autonomy and permit the head of the Hong Kong government to devise his own presentation of policies.

It is inconceivable that real power will be ceded to a new

**China simply
will not tolerate
an independent
minded leader**

Hong Kong government. That is why there are reports of senior Communist Party cadres being moved to the border town of Shenzhen, and talk of restructuring the party apparatus in Hong Kong so that a system of control by political commissioners can be put in place. The problem Mr Tung will face is that there are a number of competing Chinese power centres keen to make their mark in Hong Kong. He may well be caught in the middle of a nasty power struggle.

An absent atheist's money goes missing

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

If every great religion has its mysteries, so too now does anti-religion, at least in the United States.

Fifteen months ago, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, head of American Atheists Inc and the country's most famous non-believer, vanished from her home in Austin, Texas, along with her younger son and an adopted grand-daughter who lived with her. What happened was a riddle which baffles her followers, the media and the police to this day.

This week the tale grew curioser still: According to a Texas newspaper, \$625,000 disappeared from the accounts of American Atheists and its sister organisation United Secularists of America at almost the precise moment the three went missing. The paper further claimed that the money was "believed to be in the possession" of Jon Murray, the son who vanished with her.

Back in September 1995, everything still seemed relatively straightforward. Aged 77 and chronically ill with diabetes, Ms O'Hair suspected

she was not much longer for this earth. She had vanished, it was generally assumed, in order to keep those hated Christians - "Christians" as she called them - and their prayers away from any funeral she might organise.

But as the months passed and no trace was found, other theories began to circulate. Maybe, some murmured, she had suffered the ultimate, never-to-be-admitted humiliation of a deathbed conversion. No more implausibly, perhaps she had been abducted by her Godfearing foes, especially numerous in the Bible Belt where she lived.

After all had not Ms O'Hair, who led the challenge which resulted in the historic Supreme Court ruling of 1962 banning prayer in public in public schools, more recently taken aim at religious broadcasting? Nowhere is that institution more entrenched than in the American South. Not for nothing did she refer to herself as "the most hated woman in America".

But if her possible demise could be explained, the continuing disappearance of her son and granddaughter could not. Hence increasingly rumours of foul play, motivated by the millions of dollars reputedly controlled by Ms O'Hair and her associates through American Atheists, which claims 40,000 followers, and its affiliates. Now comes news of the missing \$625,000, fuelling speculation - denied by most of those who knew them - that the three simply absconded. Mexico is one favoured destination. Tahiti and New Zealand are others.

Belatedly William Murray, O'Hair's estranged elder son and a Christian activist, has asked for a police investigation. In Texas of course, if there is no arrest warrant against a missing person, these things can take time: "It's not against the law for an adult to disappear," a police officer says, noting there is no evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

Mr Murray though begs to differ. The trio was not the kind which merges into the background, he argues: "They are unusual-looking, unusual-sounding people, they were all obese, they were all foul-mouthed. If they came into your place of business you wouldn't forget them." Something bad, he insists, must have happened.

Saddam taps back into the world oil markets

Patrick Cockburn

People danced in the streets of Baghdad yesterday as Iraq pumped its first oil for export since sanctions were imposed when it invaded Kuwait in 1990. The official Iraqi News Agency said: "President Saddam Hussein pressed the button in Kirkuk's Number One pumping station at 11.25 Baghdad time, declaring the return of Iraqi oil to the international market."

The announcement was premature, as a fault in the pumping-station in Kirkuk, in the heart of Iraq's northern oilfields, delayed for several hours the export of the first of 580,000 barrels a day of crude oil, which

will be pumped through Turkey to its oil port at Doryol. Iraq has been able to start exporting limited quantities after six years because of the UN Security Council's "oil-for-food" plan under which Baghdad will export \$2bn of oil every six months. Under a UN-monitored scheme, the oil money will be spent on food and medicine for Iraqis, compensation for victims of the invasion of Kuwait and UN operations in Iraq.

The US agreed last year to limited sales to relieve pressure on humanitarian grounds within the UN Security Council for the total lifting of sanctions. President Saddam initially con-

sidered the monitoring of his oil exports and the distribution of aid as an invasion of Iraqi sovereignty and delayed final agreement. It is likely, however, that the improved road for 20 million Iraqis will strengthen his regime.

In giving the go-ahead for the plan, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, said: "This is a victory for the poorest of the poor of Iraq, for the women, the children, the sick and the disabled." Unicef believes 4,500 children under the age of five were dying each month from hunger and disease.

In theory, complete lifting of sanctions will only come when a UN special commission verifies Iraq has no more weapons of mass destruction, but the US is likely to oppose this, to prevent Iraq regaining its previous economic and political strength.

The oil price dipped slightly on news of the Iraqi exports but world demand is expected to be strong enough to support the 580,000 barrels a day it will ship. Before the invasion of Kuwait, Baghdad exported three million a day. The first crude pumped yesterday \$1.32bn of each \$2bn from sales will go for humanitarian supplies, including \$260m for goods for Iraqi Kurdistan. It is unclear how this will be distributed, as Kurdistan is divided between Massoud Barzani's Kurdish Democratic Party and Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which have just fought a civil war.

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Roll out the barrels: Saddam Hussein restarting oil exports yesterday after a six-year break. Photograph: AP

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PEOPLES
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Once it witnessed apartheid tyranny. Yesterday it saw the spirit of peace



Hope from despair: The scene at the Sharpeville massacre in March 1960, in which 69 people were shot down by the South African police, and below Nelson Mandela and Cyril Ramaphosa at yesterday's celebration to launch the country's new constitution

Mary Braid
Sharpeville

Three decades ago they saw the police roll into Sharpeville and open fire on a peaceful demonstration, murdering 69 black men, women and children and wounding more than 100 others.

They survived a massacre which shocked the world and forced the African National Congress to abandon half a century of humble requests and polite persuasion in favour of the AK47. It was fitting that the survivors shared the platform in Sharpeville yesterday with President Nelson Mandela when he signed South Africa's new constitution, the final chapter in the country's remarkable negotiated peace.

But the thousands who came to dance and sing in the blazing summer sun, under a canopy of umbrellas, were exorcising more than the massacre. They also put to rest the agreement which laid the foun-

dations for it and countless other atrocities. For it was at neighbouring Vereeniging that the Boers, having lost their battle for independence, signed the 1902 peace agreement with the British which disenfranchised the majority black population.

That treaty laid the foundations of the majority's suffering," said Valli Moosa, the Constitutional Affairs Minister. But he told the crowd that this was the moment that "South Africans for 300 years have lived and died for".

Future generations would cherish the day.

President Mandela linked the constitution directly to the sorrows and losses of the past. "Out of the many Sharpevilles which haunt our history was born the unshakable determination that respect for human life, liberty and well-being must be enshrined as rights beyond the power of any force to diminish," he said.

There was a moment's silence for

those who died in South Africa's long revolution but from the moment jazz legend Hugh Masekela began a musical plea to the ancestors to celebrate, the sombre mood changed. "Man this is one happy day," declared a township woman, sashaying near the front. "This is one happy day."

South Africa chose International Human Rights Day to pass into law one of the most liberal constitutions in the world. Approved by the Constitutional Court last week it was two years in the making.

Since the euphoria of the first democratic elections in 1994 the reality of everyday, down-and-dirty politics has kicked in. The ANC is struggling with internal divisions, born of personal ambitions and petty jealousies.

That was inevitable. But somehow Mr Mandela still floats above the grime. As he danced his imitable shuffle, he still wove his magic yesterday, a symbol of personal sacrifice and what it can

achieve. And the crowd loved him.

Some say the old man has lost it; that his judgement is suspect and he is given to the dictatorial rant. But while yesterday's airforce flypast and the unveiling of the commemorative plaque were too early, Mr Mandela, 78, and a little stiffer these days, was on cue and in sparkling form.

His speech was run-of-the-mill but he charmed his audience. "I need hardly tell you that this is a speech my bosses drew up for me," he said, before going off the cuff to relate a self-deprecating story about the young and brash Comrade Mandela. Its message was simple; good men and women in every political party had to guard against those who, like the young Mandela, lacked vision and wisdom. He made a general plea for national unity.

For disunity he had only to look at his own top brass. On his right sat Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale and Thabo Mbeki, president-in-waiting, recently involved

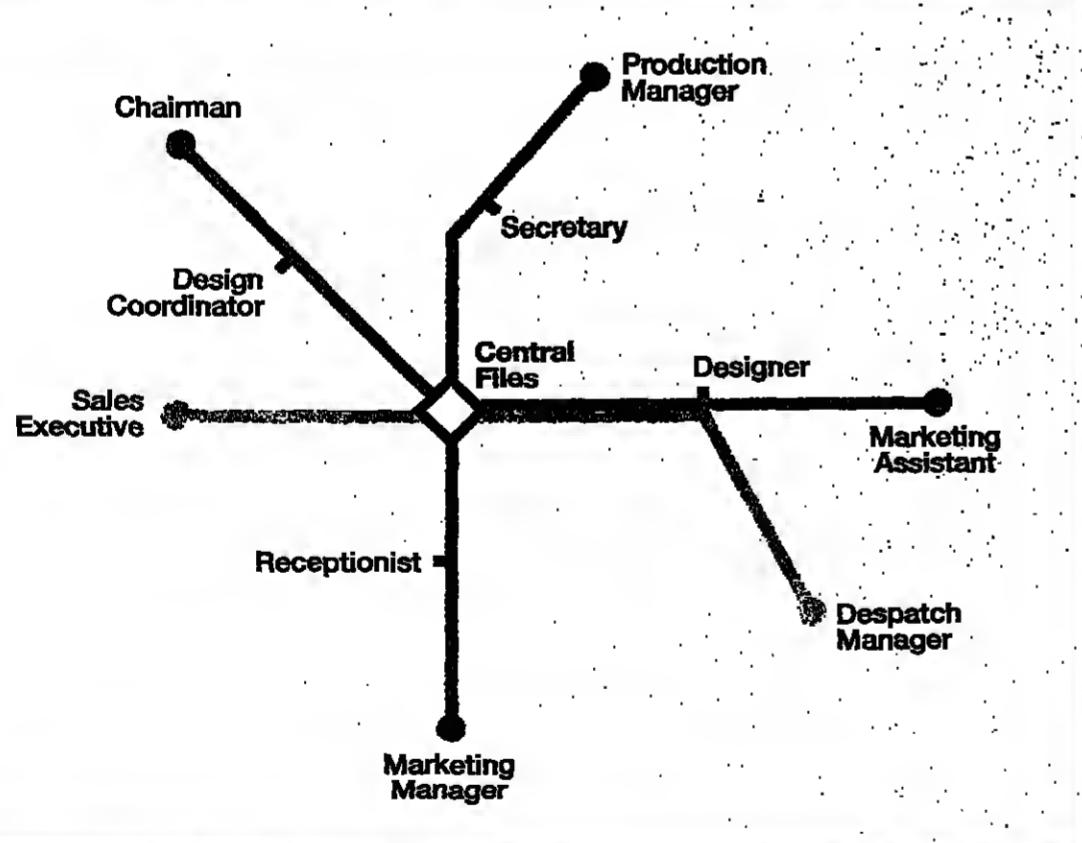
in a bitter public dispute surrounding corruption allegations. On his left was Cyril Ramaphosa, outgoing ANC secretary general and overseer of the new constitution, who has opted for a business career after losing the battle to succeed the President.

As if internal power struggles were not enough, public expectations are tough to fulfil. "The constitution is important," said one man, even as the constitution was being signed. "But it's minor compared to jobs and houses."

While the gloss may have dulled, the historic significance of the day still reached most people. As Mr Mandela and the ANC's big guns left the platform a teenage boy brandished a poster of the mass funeral which followed the Sharpeville massacre. It showed scores of coffins in a long, neat line awaiting burial.

The boy thrust his poster forward. "Never again," he mouthed quietly. Then a little louder: "Never again."

Photographs: Reuter



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international



Life on the edge: Hit squads have killed some of Rio's street children, accused by shopkeepers of 'sullying the neighbourhood' Photograph: Susan Griggs

Brazil's alleged child killers go free

Phil Davison
Latin America Correspondent

In a judgment which stunned Brazilian human-rights workers, a court yesterday acquitted three men, including two police officers of the 1993 massacre of eight children outside Rio de Janeiro's Candelaria cathedral. The defendants were suspected of acting as "hit men" for shopkeepers who accused the children of shoplifting and "sullying the neighbourhood".

In a bizarre 10-hour trial which ended in the small hours, it was the state prosecution, not the defence, which recommended acquittal in its summing up.

In the words of one human-rights campaigner, Dr Yvonne Bezerra de Mello, "It could only happen in Brazil, and with so-called justice like this, it

probably will. People are going to keep killing."

The ruling means only two of at least eight defendants named by eyewitnesses will serve time. And the two, although they confessed and were sentenced to longer-than-lifetime terms, are reportedly still being paid by the state and working within a Rio military police barracks. With various reductions, troopers Marcus Vinicius Emmanuel and Nelson Cunha may be free within two years, or even earlier if they win pending retrials.

Survivors said two carloads of well-known local policemen in civilian clothes pulled up outside the cathedral on the night of 23 July 1993. They pulled out guns and opened fire on 70 children sleeping on the pavement. Six died on the spot, several were wounded and two

were taken away and executed on the city's waterfront.

It was an open secret that local businessmen had paid policemen in the past to move the children out of the area and beat them up. Many residents had backed a "clean up" campaign. After a newspaper advertisement appeared with the headline "Kill a Child Criminal", the editor insisted it was not to be taken seriously.

According to human-rights workers, the judgment made a mockery of pledges by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso to punish the country's endemic police brutality. "This is impunity," said Dr Bezerra de Mello, a millionaire's wife who spends her time looking after homeless children in Rio. "The court would not allow eyewitness survivors to testify. And anyway, we couldn't bring children survivors as witnesses because the

police would have killed them. The prosecution was supposed to defend these kids. Instead, they defended the defendants."

Dr Bezerra de Mello said she believed the prosecution must have made a deal with the defence. Prosecutors expressed little sympathy for the victims and attacked Dr Bezerra de Mello personally for helping them. "They [the prosecutors] accused me of organising the kids, of encouraging them to do drugs."

The key witness to the massacre, Wagner dos Santos, was shot and wounded the following year after identifying several of the massacre gunmen. Dr Bezerra de Mello smuggled him to Switzerland for his protection. He returned to give evidence in the trial of Vinicius Emmanuel earlier this year but was forced to flee abroad again after further threats

Suicide judge's sex secret revealed

Robert Milliken
Sydney

When David Yeldham, one of Australia's most respected former judges, committed suicide last month, the country was shocked.

Yesterday, after weeks of rumours, some of the answers fell into place when a royal commission revealed he had confessed, hours before he died, to a secret life of paying men for sex in Sydney's public lavatories.

It was the latest in a litany of disclosures to come before the commission, which has spent two years investigating corruption in the New South Wales police force. Yeldham's name first came up in October, when Francis Arena, an MP in the New South Wales parliament, asked if he had received "preferential treatment" during the commission's investigation of paedophilia.

Yeldham, 67, was a state Supreme Court judge for 16 years before retiring in 1990. He was a QC, married with three children and lived in Hunters Hill, one of Sydney's most exclusive neighbourhoods.

He publicly denied he was a paedophile and four days later passed himself in his car outside his home. Yesterday it emerged he had been secretly interviewed by the royal commission twice in those four days. The commission released edited transcripts. "I'm bisexual, let's face it," Yeldham said on 31 Oc-

tober. "I've got a wife and three children and four grandchildren and I love young children and I'm involved in children's charities. But I've never ever, nor would I ever, have any sexual conduct with anyone who is under 18. I mean, I abhor paedophilia. I can't help being bisexual. That's something I was born with, I suppose."

Police apprehended Yeldham at least twice after complaints were made about his behaviour in lavatories at two Sydney railway stations. In De-

ember 1988, while still on the bench, he was found in a cubicle with another man. In 1990, after he had retired, he allegedly masturbated on a lavatory staircase at another station.

No charges were ever laid against Yeldham.

His case was handled not just by the ordinary police force but by the Special Branch, which appears to have let him off the hook.

The questions now being asked about the affair are: Why was his flagrant public sexual conduct taken on by the Special Branch, whose role is usually

confined to cases involving security and extremist political activity? Did police not change Yeldham because they expected to extract favours from him in judgments from the bench? How much did his fellow judges know of his secret life? And, crucially, how independent is the Australian judiciary?

In his interviews, Yeldham admitted that he always paid money to men to have sex with him at stations.

He maintained that he "could tell by looking" if one of his "encounters" was under the age of 18.

On 4 November, he said: "I'm of course deeply ashamed." But he regarded his offences as "relatively minor".

The commission's interview asked him: "In terms of your own performance on the bench judicially, did it worry you that these people might blackmail you?"

"Yes," said the former judge. "Well, how did you cope with that fear of blackmail?"

"I think I just ... well I ... I didn't think too much about it, quite frankly."

"And with the ages of the encounters then, at any stage between 1974, when you went on the bench, and as it looks, I presume that you would never ask them their age!"

"That's right," the former judge replied. "Never."

Hours after this interview, Yeldham returned home and killed himself.

significant shorts

Nobel winners call for Timor peace talks

Two East Timor human rights campaigners received their 1996 Nobel Peace Prize yesterday and immediately called on Indonesia to open talks on a peace settlement in the small Indonesian-ruled territory.

Carlos Belo, a Catholic bishop and Jose Ramos Horta, a self-exiled activist, were handed their Nobel gold medals and diplomas in a solemn ceremony in City Hall, Oslo, before several hundred dignitaries, including King Harald of Norway. The Nobel Committee chairman Francis Sejersted, who presented the laureates with the £300,000 prize, said they were awarded "for their long-lasting efforts to achieve a just and peaceful solution to the 20-year-old conflict in East Timor". Reuter - Oslo

Austria hunts letter bombers

A letter bomb sent to the step-mother of Austria's interior minister is the work of the extreme-rightist group or individual responsible for five earlier series, a senior police officer said.

Chief Inspector Robert Sturm said the letter bomb, which exploded on Monday while being examined by police, was "with certainty" made by the so-called Bayonet Liberatio Front, the rabidly anti-immigrant group behind most of over a dozen letter bombs posted since December 1993. AP - Vienna

Mobutu plans return to Zaire

The President of Zaire, Mobutu Sese Seko, convalescing in France from cancer surgery, plans to return to his embattled homeland next week, on of his aides said yesterday.

Mobutu's protocol chief, Bosco Cassouba, said the exact day of his departure had not yet been decided.

For over a month, Mr Mobutu has been recuperating from prostate cancer at his Riviera villa near Nice. He has been out of Zaire since August, and has watched from abroad as the central African nation struggles to contain a rebellion and a refugee crisis. AP - Rocquebrune-Cap-Martin

Court rejects election appeal

Yugoslavia's federal supreme court has rejected an appeal by the opposition Zajedno (Together) coalition to be reinstated as victors of municipal elections in Belgrade, the city election commission said. The decision appeared to exhaust the legal avenues open to Zajedno which has conducted a campaign of demonstrations against what they say is election rigging by the ruling socialist party of the Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic. Reuter - Belgrade

One fish brings in £60,000

Iranian fishermen caught a 14ft, 500kg sturgeon worth £60,000 off the east coast of the Caspian sea last week. Exports of caviar earned Iran nearly £30m in the year ending March 1996. Reuter - Tehran

NZ rival joins Bolger in coalition

David Barber
Wellington

Maverick New Zealand politician, Winston Peters, who vowed to oust the conservative National Party government in October's general election, yesterday led his New Zealand First party into a coalition with it.

Mr Peters will be deputy to Prime Minister Jim Bolger, who threw him out of his cabinet five years ago, precipitating his expulsion from the National Party. He will also hold the new cabinet portfolio of treasurer, giving him immense economic power, including the right to write budgets.

The decision marked an about-face by Mr Peters, who bitterly attacked Mr Bolger - Prime Minister for the last six years - during the recent election campaign, saying he was not fit to govern. The 50-year-old Maori courted controversy by criticising immigrants who he claimed had no commitment to New Zealand. He denied that he was racist.

NZ First's 17 MPs, who hold the balance of power following the inconclusive election, took nine hours yesterday to decide to join the 44 National MPs in



Winston Peters: Expelled from National Party

the centre-right government rather than form a centre-left administration with the main opposition Labour Party.

Mr Peters and senior advisers had spent almost eight weeks negotiating detailed coalition agreements with the Nationals and Labour before putting them before his MPs. The length of yesterday's meeting indicated a vigorous debate though Mr Peters said the final decision was by consensus. He said the decision was made in the interest of "the welfare and well-being of all New Zealanders".

The coalition will have an overall majority of only one in the 122-seat House of Representatives, but are likely to be supported on most issues by eight MPs of the right-wing ACT NZ party and the single United NZ member.

The National Party has made big concessions on economic policy, including deferring NZ\$1.1bn (£640,000) tax cuts scheduled for next July. The cuts were a major plank of National's campaign policy, but NZ First wanted them delayed to fund increased spending on social policies.

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Mary Leakey

Mary Leakey was the world's most famous palaeoanthropologist and finder of East African fossil hominids.

With her husband, the late Louis Leakey, and later followed by her son, Richard, she was responsible in large part for the success of the "family business" in enlightening the world about the origins of mankind in Africa and in particular in Kenya and her beloved Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. Her documentation of the stone tools from this site and the demonstration of their cultural sequence will stand as a testament to her academic achievement as long as people are curious about prehistory. In the popular world she will be best remembered by the discovery of numerous hominid fossils at Olduvai Gorge as well as the find of the fossil footprints at Laetoli, Tanzania, of man-like creatures who walked upright on two legs at least 3.6 million years ago.

She was born Mary Nicol, into a world that was comfortable, just before the Great War; her father was Ernest Nicol, the Scottish landscape artist, and her early childhood education was by a governess. After the war the family travelled in Switzerland and the South of France where they lived for many years. This early experience never left her and she spoke French fluently. As a child she visited some excavations near Les Eyzies being conducted by Elie Peyrony, where she worked with the Abbé Lemozi at Cabrerets, developed the artistic gift she got from her father by drawing stone tools and also helped with the excavations. Her great-great-grandfather was John Frère, the first Englishman to recognise that certain flaked flakes were the work of man and were indeed stone tools. It could be said, therefore, that archaeology was truly in her blood.

Her world was shattered when her father died suddenly in 1926 and the family returned to London, and she to a return school and conventional society. Her rebellious nature asserted itself; she was expelled from

school more than once. Her interest in archaeology was sustained although she never became a formal student or took a degree. Indeed all her degrees from all over the world were honorary doctorates.

In the early Thirties she took part in digs supervised by Dorothy Liddell and through her met Gertrude Caton-Thomson. Caton-Thomson was a formidable figure in Middle Eastern archaeology who was based at Oxford and whose book *The Desert Fayoum* (1934) Mary was asked to illustrate. This was important enough but even more so was the fact that it led to a meeting with Louis Leakey, the Kenyan archaeologist who was making a name for himself academically. Louis Leakey left his first wife and two young children in late 1934 and by 1935 Mary had joined him in Tanzania; together they drove to Olduvai with her suitcase tied on to the back of the car. Thus began an association with Olduvai that lasted over 50 years.

Olduvai Gorge is an offshoot of the Great Rift Valley of East Africa that is about 30 miles long and cuts across the Serengeti plain. Successive rainy seasons over time have cut the Gorge down to base rock. The overlying deposits are sequential but faulted and contain numerous fossils of animals that lived in the area over the past two million years or so. It is a site rich in fossils, since the conditions for preservation seem to have been right, in that volcanoes nearby spouted alkaline ash which, coupled with rain, allowed bones to fossilise.

Stone tools were found in the same layer as the skull, but who was the owner of the skull? Another season was to pass before light was to be thrown on that problem with the find of a little hand, a little foot and part of a braincase. Louis Leakey, Phillip Tobias and John Napier started the world by according to this creature the status of a member of our own genus, with a hand that was capable of making the tools found alongside it, and a brain bigger than that of the known apes.

During all this excitement



Meticulous and painstaking: Mary and Louis Leakey on the discovery of an almost complete skull of australopithecine ape-man in 1959

Many tended to take a back seat.

Louis revelled in the lime-light, lectured world-wide and debated his finds with anyone who would listen — Mary continued her work in the Gorge collecting stone tools from all of the successive layers, documenting and eventually defining the cultures and their succession from what she termed the Oldowan in Bed I at the bottom to the Naisiusiu at the top. She was assisted in this by Richard Hay, a geologist from Berkley University, California, whose dating expertise confirmed the chronological sequence. The result of this work was a series of monographs on the archaeology of the Olduvai Gorge, first by bed: *Olduvai Gorge, volume 3, Excavations in Beds I and II* (1971) and volume 5, *Excavations in*

Beds III, IV and the Masek Beds (1994), that will stand for all time as a monumental work in the true sense of the word — it is in itself a monument to her persistence, to her diligence, to her judgement and to her courage in undertaking this huge task and surviving to finish it.

In 1970 Louis Leakey died and many wondered if this would be the end of the work at Olduvai. Those who thought that, did not know her. Work continued at the Gorge and another site was opened nearby named Laetoli. Fossil hominids were found there that were earlier than those known from Olduvai and even earlier than that famous "Lucy" from Ethiopia that had been attributed to a new species of ape-man, *Australopithecus afarensis*.

Controversially her fossils were attributed to this group, by others. Typically she did not indulge in an academic slanging match but let her work speak for itself. It was Laetoli, however, that was the scene of her greatest triumph. The discovery in 1975 of fossilised animal footprints in solidified volcanic ash that was more than three and a half million years old alerted her, to the possibility, that there could be hominids also escaping this eruption.

Perhaps, their footprints would be uncovered and their form of walking disclosed. By dint of painstaking work, and not a little luck, in 1978 three trails of footprints were discovered. Subsequent analysis showed that their form of walking was incontrovertibly heel-toe striding. The evidence of bipedalism does not depend upon anatomists' opinions of bones or statisticians' sums, it is there for all to see. The contours of the prints match those of modern man and his method of locomotion.

What of the woman herself? Was she all academic work? By no means was that the case. She was a breeder of pedigree Dalmatians who showed regularly, a wildlife expert of the Africa she loved, an expert on East African rock art, an inveterate and unrepentant cigar smoker and evening whisky drinker, and a devotee of detective fiction with a weakness for Miss Marple, a character she resembled in more ways than one. In camp, however, the rules were clear and had to be obeyed — the courtesies of an English drawing room were adapted but still applied. Meals were to be attended on time as

a courtesy to the cooks, nobody

retired until the animals and the staff had been "fed and watered". (One distinguished academic was sent home from Olduvai on the bus for a transgression against a Dalmatian.) Despite this seemingly fearsome reputation her sense of humour usually prevailed. A visit to the camp at Olduvai was a privilege and always provided outstanding memories to all who were lucky enough to be asked and who took part in the work of her excavations.

Michael Day

Mary Douglas Nicol, archaeologist and anthropologist; born 6 February 1913; married 1936 Louis Leakey (died 1972; three sons, and one daughter deceased); died Nairobi, Kenya 9 December 1996.

Raphael Samuel

Raphael Samuel brought to the writing and popularisation of history a seemingly inexhaustible energy and creativity. He was also an inspired teacher and the author of books and essays which have expanded beyond recognition the intellectual and imaginative ranges both of English history and of the writing of history itself.

But he was not only a teacher and a writer; he was also an organiser and a prophet, a close, sometimes uncanny reader of "the signs of the times". He preached and practised a new vision of a popular history: a democratic history which put the everyday lives of ordinary people at the heart of a large and even sweeping history of the nations of Britain over the last two centuries.

Samuel gave new meaning to the idea of history as an experimental art, inventing the History Workshop (a term he borrowed from one of his heroines, Joan Littlewood, founder of Theatre Workshop) first as a local and then as an international movement. The extent of his empathy was exceptional. No one charted more exactly the ways in which the Industrial

Revolution had increased the extent of toil in every branch of Victorian industry, but no one could have acknowledged more generously the contribution of Tory antiquaries in Early Hanoverian England to the writing of a national history. His cast of historical actors ranged from the Catholic priests ministering among the post-famine Irish poor, the proletarian Gladstonian roughs of Headington Quarry through South Wales village Bolsheviks in the 1920s, to the mobsters of the Edwardian East End underworld.

His insights were the product of an omnivorous intellectual appetite which crossed disciplines and periods: Samuel wrote with the insights of a literary critic, the acuity of an anthropologist and the wit of a political journalist. Up until his last hours he remained passionately engaged with the future of history, both of his own many projects and those of the many friends and admirers whom he had helped to inspire.

Raphael Samuel was brought up in a London household which was Jewish and Communist. His political education and his love for history were

nurtured by progressive schooling at King Alfred's School, Hampstead, and Balliol College, Oxford, where he became a devoted student and later friend of Christopher Hill. In 1956 he left the Communist Party which had done so much to shape his youthful years and was one of the founder editors, together with Stuart Hall and Charles Taylor, of what was soon to become *New Left Review*. He settled in Spitalfields in east London in an early-18th-century house which continued to have been inhabited by Jews, Jacobins and silk-weavers. This was to become his own workshop and later on the home which he made with his wife, the writer and critic Alison Light.

In 1962 Samuel was appointed Tutor in Sociology at Ruskin College, Oxford, a trade-union supported institution which prepared for university working people who had left school without qualifications. Upon this post he stamped his genius. He was a brilliant, if eccentric, teacher. Rather than submitting his students to the textbook learning of vocational courses, Samuel believed that every person had

a history/story of importance to tell, and one which could be empowered to write, thus becoming the historian of their own past. As one student wrote:

"I came to Ruskin knowing I could not write an essay and left Ruskin sure that I could write a book." To those who took up this challenge Samuel was a source of sometimes obstinate, always uplifting, faith in themselves. He led people on journeys of creative self-discovery by blowing away the walls which separated working people from literary culture.

From Ruskin, beginning in 1966, Samuel also launched a series of national workshops on topics which were then unheard of as the stuff of history and are now the *sine qua non* of every history course: women's history, the history of childhood, empire and patriotism. The changing definition of nations, the cultural diversity of Britain. Participation in these workshops in the 1970s and 1980s sometimes encompassed thousands. These gatherings had not only a political aim — the exploration of difficult areas of national life — but also a radical pedagogic purpose. Established

professors and well-known intellectuals shared platforms with Ruskin students, offering the first fruit of their research. Samuel did not call for the dismantling of conventional academic hierarchies, he simply dismantled them. Many of the contributors — professional historians and students — became the first writers for the *History Workshop Journal* which he co-founded in 1975 and is now a leading international historical review. Here, a group of radical historians formed an extended family which soon stretched to all continents, but which had at its centre Samuel's tireless inspiration and continuous intellectual growth.

In the 1980s, when so many intellectuals of the Left retreated from the public sphere or fell silent, Samuel was intrigued rather than repelled by Thatcherite Britain. Thatcherism expressed and mobilised some deep-rooted popular yearnings which Samuel was determined to understand. He was not afraid to share some of the enthusiasm in popular culture which others spurned. The new leisure-time pursuits of the 1980s fascinated him as

much as Staffordshire figurines and Victorian music-hall.

This engagement with the continuous remaking of a people's past, through the barely remarked and kaleidoscopic shifts in popular sources of enthusiasm and identification, began to be put together in his *magnum opus*, *Theses of Memory*, the first volume of which appeared in 1994. Samuel was a powerful, idiosyncratic thinker. But in his own inimitable way, he long

anticipated an understanding of culture which is now global.

Even in his last year, Raphael Samuel was engaged in new projects. He became professor at the University of East London and began to form a centre of London history.

Gareth Stedman Jones

Raphael Elkan Samuel, historian; born London 26 December 1914; married 1987 Alison Light; died London 9 December 1996.



Dame Joan Hammond

In her excellent obituary of Dame Joan Hammond [28 November], Elizabeth Forbes did not mention Hammond's great love of sailing writes John Cleap.

In the 1960s, she and her devoted companions Lolita Marriot and Esjuries Walker (incidentally all three ladies owned a Rolls-Royce) spent much time in her motor yacht *Parkina* based in Pwle Harbour. I, as a youngish naval officer, was privileged to be their navigator on cross-channel trips. Her constant concern for the welfare of others was illustrated in daily short trips out to sea to "ditch the garbage"; too many other yachts did that at their harbour moorings.

Joan Hammond also gave many recitals, usually accompanied by Ivor Newton, who had introduced me to her, and together they made her last recording, an LP mainly of English songs, in 1965.

Jose Luis Gonzalez, writer, died Mexico City 8 December, aged 70. His stories about Puerto Rico were translated into 10 languages.

Changes in prison rules were not unlawful

LAW REPORT

11 December 1996

Lord Justice Hirst said the three applicants were category C prisoners at Risley. Prior to the implementation of the new system, each would have been entitled to apply for home leave after serving one third of his sentence. Under the new scheme, he was entitled to apply only after serving half his sentence.

Each argued that as a result of the new policy, he was deprived of the legitimate expectation that he would be considered eligible for home leave after he had served a third of his sentence. Each relied on a notice received from the prison authorities when he began his sentence, and also on the terms of the compact he then entered into with the prison governor.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Brendan Green, Kevin Briggs and Craig Hargreaves against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on 25 July 1995 ([1996] 1 Q.B. 168) refusing their application for judicial review of the Home Secretary's decision to implement a new scheme governing the eligibility of prisoners to apply for home leave, and of an order of the governor of HM Prison Risley applying the new scheme to each of the applicants.

The change was effected by the Prison (Amendment) Rules 1995 (SI 1993) which replaced the provisions of rule 6 of the Prison Rules 1964. The new rule was introduced as a result of problems with the existing regime, such as absconding or the commission of offences by prisoners while on leave, which had attracted adverse publicity, to the detriment of public confidence in the criminal justice system.

The Divisional Court, in rejecting the applicants' argument in that case, held that the new policy did not affect the applicants' legitimate expectation that they would be granted parole; it dealt with eligibility not with timing. His Lordship did not accept that.

First, it was clear that timing was at the forefront of the applicants' argument in that case. Second, in considering eligibility for parole, timing was one of the main criteria and was in fact the one changed under the new policy of 1993. Third, the passage quoted from Lord Scarman was clearly of general application to all prisoners affected by the change of policy.

On this interpretation, the present case was indistinguishable from *Findlay*.

In any case, a representation could only be relied upon as the basis for a legitimate expectation if it was clear and unambiguous.

The notice to prisoners and the compact with the governor relied upon in this case did not, taken as a whole,

contain a clear and unambiguous representation as to timing, so were not a proper foundation for the legitimate expectation for which the applicants contended.

It was, however, unsatisfactory that documents of such importance to prisoners should be other than completely clear and unambiguous.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

FLANAGAN: On 22 November, at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Julian and Caroline (née Dilworth), a daughter, Alice Caroline.

DEATHS

MANDELSTAM: Dorothy, died on 8 December 1996. A remarkable woman. Cremation private. Memorial service to be announced later.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR GAZETTE BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS: Births, Deaths, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorials services, Wedding anniversaries. In Memoriam should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5JL. Tel: 0181 542 5000. Fax: 0181 542 5001. The cost of a 24-hour answering machine 0181 542 5001 or 0181 542 5002, and a £10.00 a line charge.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS: The Queen opens the new headquarters of the Institute of Physics at 76 Portland Place, London W1. The Prince Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, and the Vice-Chairman of the London Yacht Show Council, the Royal Yacht Master Club, London SW1, and as President, the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, and as Captain of the Royal Yacht Squadron, Poole, Dorset, and as Captain of the Royal Yacht Squadron, Royal Victoria Dock, London E14. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend a Service Meeting at the Institute of Physics, London SW1, and as Patron, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1.

Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment meets the Queen's Life Guards at Horse Guards, 11am.

Charles VI, 1314; the British, led by Lord Methven, were repulsed by the Boers under Piet Cronje at the Battle of Magersfontein, Orange Free State, 1899; public buildings were burnt in Dublin; the damage being estimated at £3m; 1920; the new Waterloo Bridge was opened, 1945. Today is the Feast Day of St Barbara, St Damasus I, Pope, St Daniel the Stylist and Saint Damasus, Vicarius and Gendamus, Vicarius of Brundisium.

HMS Victory: Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, hosted a dinner yesterday evening at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam.

HMS Ark Royal: Captain Catherine Lever, Working and Idle in Late 19th and Early 20th-century Art, 1pm. Graham Greene (Editor) held at the Royal Geographical Society, London SW7. Professor Colin Pillinger, "Life on Mars?", 7pm.

King's College London, London WC2: Dr Eric Zahar, "Does Pointcarre's Geometrical Conventionalism Deserve its Name?", 5.15pm.

Foundation for Science and Technology: Lord Jenkins of Roding was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SW1. Professor Peter Hall, Professor Duncan Macmillan, and Mr Rodney A.R. Green were the speakers. Their subject was "Can we Live in the City of the Future?"

Commonwealth Foundation: Dr Humayun Khan, Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, was the host at a farewell dinner held yesterday evening at Marlborough House, London SW1, for the outgoing chairman of the foundation, Sir Richard Luce, and Lady Luce. Chief Executive Anyanku was the speaker.

Newspaper Society: Mr Robin Burgess, President, Newspaper Society, was the host at a lunch held yesterday at the Newspaper Society after the abdication of his father, Ferdinand VII became king of Spain.

Afternoon Tea: Sir Douglas James, Jardine, Matheson and Co, London SW1, and as Patron, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1.

Obituary: Sir Michael Balfour QC and Terence Galligan (Reece David Wood Wild & Co, Birmingham) for the applicants; Michael Balfour QC and Steven Kovacs (Treasury Solicitor) for the respondents.

Our blind eyes helped the paedophiles prey

Suppose 3,000 children, living conventionally at home with their parents, had been preyed upon by paedophiles. Imagine that they were on the way home from school, homework sticking out of satchels, and socks sagging. But suppose that each night, before reaching the comfort of tea and telly, those children were accosted by strangers, raped, bullied and abused. Parents would be in outcry, let alone extreme distress. The entire nation would have erupted, fuelled by screaming headlines. Politicians would have launched inquiry after inquiry. And no-one would have rested until the culprits were rounded up.

Except, of course, it could never have happened like this. The systematic abuse by strangers of thousands of ordinary children from ordinary families is simply impossible. Too many parents would notice too quickly and make too much fuss. Those people likely to abuse them are not strangers, but members of their own families.

However, we now learn that a lot of children from not so ordinary families may not have been safe at all. And no one noticed or batted an anxious eyelid about them for years. Today we report on a new inquiry into sexual abuse in children's homes in Merseyside. The police want to trace more than 3,000 former residents who passed through 15 different homes

during the Seventies and Eighties. In neighbouring Cheshire, the biggest investigation yet is taking place into child abuse in children's homes; several former care workers have already been imprisoned. And in Cwyl, North Wales, a judicial public inquiry into institutional child abuse is set to start in the new year, after official inquiries were covered up. All three of these inquiries have been disclosed by this paper: the Merseyside inquiry is just the latest, and may conceivably be connected to the other two.

Altogether, that means 10,000 possible victims will be interviewed in the North West alone. Of course many may have been happily oblivious to the violence against other children. Lucky them. Nevertheless, wide-scale abuse of children went unnoticed for decades.

It is not hard to see how it happened. Most of us were not, then, paying very much interest to what went on in children's homes, or what happened to their residents. These were the tough cases out on the edge of the social worker's case book.

Even the milder cases turned us off: the families in grim, cold poverty, battered wives, alcoholic husbands, drug-dealing older brothers and pregnant younger sisters. As for the children in the most extreme circumstances - those who were in danger, perhaps who were dangerous them-

selves, or who just had nowhere else to go - we didn't think about them at all. Stuck out there in a shadowy world, far away from conventional domestic security, they were easily dismissed as difficult and dysfunctional.

So we failed to set up systematic and sophisticated inspections of homes; we didn't monitor care workers, we didn't investigate staff records and we failed to provide the resources for a fully professional care service. We left the staff in children's homes pretty much to their own devices, and we paid them poorly so jobs were always vacant. We could hardly have made it any easier for disturbed people determined to abuse those children. Worst of all, when the children cried out, we did not hear. Even now that police investigations and inquiries are finally allowing those children to tell their tales, most of us are not listening. Yet the fact that this abuse took place in children's homes should make us more angry, not less. These children were taken into the care of the state - in other words, we were all responsible for them. What happened to them took place while they were a public responsibility.

We cannot be complacent about the future, either. It is true that much of the abuse that is now emerging took place a decade or more ago. Most local authority children's homes are now closed, with children sent to foster parents instead. The rules about caring for children have tightened up considerably, and social services are extremely sensitive to the possibility of sexual abuse.

However, our responsibility for children on the edge of society has not vanished. Nor has our predilection to ignore their predicament. Children in trouble are still easily swept under the carpet. That is why we launched our Christmas Appeal for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children's work with victims of abuse. Residential centres that might appeal to paedophiles as employees still exist, albeit under different names: schools for children with learning difficulties, centres for teenagers with challenging behavioural problems, homes for children with mental handicaps. And, terribly, there are many children who continue to suffer abuse in their own apparently safe home environment, at the hands of fathers, uncles, relations, family friends.

That is why we should strive to resist the temptation to turn protectively inwards towards our own families in the face of other children's pain. It is easy to do. Horrific cases of child

abuse in Belgium and Australia are starting to trigger a moral backlash and homophobia. Retreating back behind the myth of the nuclear family, putting up barriers against the outside world and rejecting people (and children) who are different to ourselves would be the worst thing we could possibly do. That, after all, is how we got into the mess in Merseyside, Cheshire and Cwyl in the first place. That is why we are asking you to support our small seasonal attempt to fund support for children who are suffering abuse, not a decade, or even two decades ago, but right now.

You'd have to be green to believe it

One thing opinion polls are still good for is smoking out our national hypocrisies. *The Independent's* poll today reveals that we say we are prepared to spend more on "green" products and cut down on the use of "ungreen" washing machines, televisions and cars. Ho, ho, as we say in this season of hollow laughter. Just as we are prepared to pay higher taxes for better public services? It's not just politicians who say one thing and do another.



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE 071-293 2000 / 071-345 2000 FAX 071-293 2435 / 071-345 2435

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Caught in the adoption minefield

Sir: We would like to express our anger and disappointment at the decision by the Minister of Health to close the Overseas Adoption Helpline. As from March next year there will be no service dedicated to informing prospective adopters, childcare workers and medical and legal advisers about the complex processes in the sensitive area of inter-country adoption. The absence of this important resource will add pressure to local authority social services departments, which are already overstretched.

Since its foundation in 1992 the helpline has handled more than 13,000 inquiries about adopting children from almost 100 countries, and we know that interest is escalating. This year, there have already been three times as many applications to adopt children from China as last year.

The withdrawal of the Helpline will not mean that those who wish to adopt children from overseas will lose interest but that they may find it impossible to gain accurate information. We do know that the majority of inquirers decide not to proceed, many after talking to Helpline staff. Both the changing criteria of sending countries and the often complex approval process can present a minefield to prospective adopters, and ultimately the lack of service to them impacts on children.

This decision, coming so shortly after the omission of the draft Adoption Bill from the Queen's Speech, raises serious questions about the Government's commitment to international co-operation on the protection of children. The Bill would have enabled the UK to ratify the Hague Convention and thus be in a position to work co-operatively with the increasing number of other countries ratifying.

The good intentions of prospective adopters will not protect children living in poverty across the world from merciless exploitation by marketeers. The Government has a duty to ensure that safeguards are in place and not to dismantle existing provision before proper legislation is passed.

FELICITY COLLIER
Director, British Agencies for Adoption & Fostering
BRIAN WALLER
Chair, Children and Families Committee, Association of Directors of Social Services

DENISE PLATT
Under-Secretary for Social Services, Association of Metropolitan Authorities

STEPHEN CAMPBELL
Under-Secretary for Social Services, Association of County Councils

KEITH BILTON
Chair of Children & Families Sub-committee, British Association of Social Workers

PHILLY MORRALL
National Co-ordinator, Parent to Parent Information on Adoption Services

PAT WORDLEY
Chair, Association of Families who have Adopted from Abroad
London SE1



A positive state of depression

Sir: Yvette Cooper adopts a wise stance in her article on chronic fatigue syndrome ("The disease that makes everyone an expert", 7 December). She is not, however, compelled by the needs of psychiatrists and other doctors to respond professionally to the sufferer's search for help. Such carers, while keeping open minds, are more driven to have some working hypothesis concerning the pathology confronting them.

Whether or not this disorder is eventually shown to be primarily or exclusively a variant of "depression" remains to be seen. Meanwhile, this latter state surely deserves greater respect. In Puritan times it was often considered a proper condition for the pilgrim confronting the higher reaches of life and striving to have some worthy impact. Thomas Hardy, in his novels, seems to have had a similar, more noble vision of it.

The point at which people give up in the face of problems is likely to vary with the extent of their engagement in them at all, as well as their psychological capacity then to cope.

Some may collapse more readily, inviting others to label them "unstable" or "inadequate" as implied by Yvette Cooper. Others only falter after straining mightily in life's arena, more so than many of us and beyond the call of duty - a process that may require powerful mental defence mechanisms to be in place. This may render it more likely that, eventually, any breakdown will express itself in physical rather than emotional terms. Such people may then be

most difficult to reach and help psychologically.

Perhaps we can make a start by coming to respect "depression" more in the individual, recognising it as sometimes a rather mature state of mind and, with appropriate help, a potential gateway to further personal growth, "sadder but wiser" and constructively so.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR CRISP
FRCPsych
London SW20

Dyslexia a step in evolution?

Sir: Susan Emmett's report on research into dyslexia ("Pill that can help dyslexics read better", 28 November) stated that 5 per cent of children are very dyslexic and 15 per cent have a mild form of this "disorder", which researchers say is caused by abnormal brain chemistry that might be corrected by fans.

I think more research should be devoted to the reason for the increasing number of children with this changing brain chemistry. Is it part of the evolutionary change of the human brain adapting to needs of the future?

My son, now 46, was classed as "backward", unable to read at the age of eight and a half but having a wide vocabulary and a retentive mind. I eventually changed his school and teaching methods. He went on to gain a university degree and a professional qualification. His retentive memory of the

spoken word is a considerable asset in his profession. His son, aged 13, was recognised as dyslexic at a fairly early age and received remedial assistance. He can read fluently, although his handwriting and drawing are not up to standard.

However, he appears to have abnormal ability at understanding computers. He is able to instruct one to draw a design "in his head" and says that within his brain he can perceive virtual reality. His main interests and top grades are in physics and all science subjects.

Is dyslexia a brain "disorder", or the early recognisable stages of brain evolution?

LOUISE WILSON
Crockenhurst, Kent

Quebec moved on after 1759

Sir: The summary of history given on your Letters page by Pierre-Louis Mallen of the Institut de France ("Foreign occupation" drove Quebecers into the arms of Pétain", 7 December) - with English Canadians as occupants of Quebec ever since the 1759 Battle of the Plains of Abraham - is inadequate.

True, there was a military victory at Quebec City in 1759, and it resulted in a British occupation of New France. However, the demographics of Quebec have changed since 1759 and 20th-century Quebecers, many of mixed French and English ancestry, are getting a little bored with this

simply interpretation of over two centuries of subsequent history.

Imagine how much more irritating it must be to the descendants of the people who were already living in north-eastern North America when the first French settlers (or should we call them *occupants*?) arrived.

De Gaulle's visit caused great excitement among Quebecers - many of them hoping for a future in a Quebec national state who were rightly proud of their culture and their historic links with France. His dramatic speech, with its offensive allusion to the Nazi occupation of France, proved him an ardent champion of *la francophonie mondiale* but a lousy historian of Quebec.

Those of us who have recently heard too much of the expressions *Québécois pur laïne* or *Québécois de souche* are only too aware how seductive such an oversimplification of Quebec history can be.

Even in the context of an analysis of pro-Pétain feelings in Quebec in the 1940s, it is irresponsible to reduce the rich complexity of modern Quebec to this "us and them" duality.

Mallén takes a short walk from the Institut to the Protestant library in the rue des Saint-Pères or a longer walk to the former Jewish school in the Marais. He can see for himself how dangerously easy it is to teach people to regard their neighbours as foreigners, and what the appalling consequences can be.

ANNIE THACKRAY
London NW3

US clouds in open skies

Sir: Does Matt Paxton (letter, 9 December) really believe for a moment that a level playing field exists, when an American carrier can fly into London and then on to a European Union market bigger than the United States, but a British carrier can only fly from the US to destinations such as Ottawa and Bogota?

The Germans were robbed in their "open skies" deal with the US. It may have been open skies for the Americans, but the door of the US domestic market has been slammed in Lufthansa's face.

If the British don't want to be duped into a similar deal it's about time we got off our nationalist high horse and allowed the European Commission to negotiate "open skies" from a position of strength, as is sensibly done with every other area of trade policy.

DINOS KYROU
Department of International Relations
University of Aberdeen

Respectable gloss

Sir: I have noticed a tendency within the "quality" media - *The Independent* included - to confer spurious respectability on prurient or famous articles by adding the phrase "What does this say about us?" to their titles.

Disturbingly, I find myself reading these articles even though I know I will be irritated by them. What does this say about me?

GILES BURGESS
London E8

Crackdown on sick stalkers

Sir: Earlier this year I found myself the victim of a hate-mail campaign and for four months I was besieged by an endless stream of sexually allusive and physically threatening material which was posted to my home, along with pornographic newspaper and magazine cuttings and a bag of unspeakable "gifts". My two young children were also threatened. Even the police were shocked at the ferocity of the attack.

I genuinely felt we were living in fear for our safety, if not our lives. I lost sleep and was forced to alter many plans in order to provide a constant level of vigilance in my home.

I truly believed this nightmare would cease when this pathetic and wicked woman was brought to justice. She pleaded guilty to five offences of sending obscene material through the post. I attended court as an observer only and was forced to listen to her eloquent solicitor give a heart-rending account of her client's impeccable character and lifelong devotion to good causes. The defendant was eventually fined a modest sum which she obligingly offered to pay off at £50 per month.

My only consolation is that the Stalking Bill will hopefully be rushed through Parliament ("Sweeping penalties in new law on stalkers", 6 December), and that it will enable the courts to deal realistically with these sick and perverted characters.

WENDY CALLAN
Oxford

Farsi, please

Sir: What promising news to hear that the Iranian Majlis has outlawed Western words (report, 4 December). We may have to tolerate the rule of the mullahs but perhaps they will now consider speaking our language, Farsi, and not the Arabic that has been creeping into common usage since the revolution of 1979.

No more "Allahu Akbar" over the airwaves, no more readings of the Arabic Koran and, best of all, no more of those Islamic titles that Iran's rulers so love to give themselves.

CHERRY MOSTESHAR
Oxford

Old-fashioned us

Sir: I cannot let Polly Toynbee's comments ("Just say No to this agonising sum", 9 December) go unchallenged.

My wife and I met in 1962 and were married in church with all the appropriate promises in 1964. We did not "have sex" before our wedding, brought up two children of whom we are immensely proud, managed separate careers, and remain happily married to this day. Old-fashioned? Probably. Unusual or uncommon? Possibly. But I'm sorry Ms Toynbee, I will not accept "grotesque".

GEORGE BUCKLEY
Wellington, Surrey

Fizzy horrors

Sir: Having recently tasted a small selection of "alcopops" for the first time, I must applaud the Chancellor's decision to increase the duty on them. They are surely the most vile concoctions ever designed for retail sale.

M.D. WELLS
Pinner, Middlesex

Begging question
Sir: Sign at King's Cross Underground station in London: "Beware of professional beggars." Are we to understand that there are amateur beggars who just do it for love?

KIERAN COOPER
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number:
Fax 0171-293 2056, e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk.

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

analysis

Labour's Irish question mark

Tony Blair, who visits Belfast this week, has so far shown only a perfunctory interest in the Province's problems.

David McKittrick charts Labour's less than consistent record on Northern Ireland

Hard-headed political operators in both the Unionist and nationalist camps say privately that what matters most to them about the next British general election is not who wins it, but the strength of the winning party's majority.

Unionists want a weak government reliant on Unionist support in the Commons; nationalists want a stronger administration with no need of Unionist assistance.

But the possibility of a Labour government means that Irish politicians are already flicking back through their legendarily compendious memory banks for indications on how a Blair-led government might perform. Labour policy on Ireland has see-sawed wildly over the decades, going through nationalist periods but also decidedly Unionist phases. In many ways it is a tale of radical instincts curbed by the exigencies of office.

There has been much change since Labour was last in power, but the fact is that many of the same factors and forces, and indeed some of the personalities, will be faced by Tony Blair and Marjorie Mowlam, who, everyone assumes, will be his Northern Ireland Secretary. New Labour will have to face the old Irish questions.

Mowlam has held the Northern Ireland brief for many years, but Blair has shown only the most perfunctory interest in Ireland. Their party has, though, gone through the same painful learning curve as everyone else in these islands, which means they will not approach the problems, as some of their predecessors did, in a state of almost complete ignorance.



1949

The first occasion when a Labour government ever really came to grips with the clause was almost half a century ago, in an episode which, though now part of history, offers a telling insight into the party's perspectives.

In 1949 the Dublin government unexpectedly announced that Ireland, though effectively independent for many years, would formally declare a republic and leave the Commonwealth. This huge constitutional change meant that the Attlee government needed new legislation to regularise Northern Ireland's position.

Up to that point the Labour government had exhibited what one of its junior ministers, the pro-nationalist Lord Longford, described as "a rather hazy benevolence" towards southern Ireland. This

was very much a traditional Labour approach, for expatriate Irishmen and their descendants had played a significant role in the movement since its early days.

When it came to brass tacks, however, such sentiment went by the board. The government inserted a clause in the new bill laying down that Northern Ireland would remain in the UK so long as a majority in the Stormont parliament in Belfast wanted it.

Since Stormont has an built Unionist majority, nationalists protested that the clause ensured the partition of Ireland. But Attlee's Cabinet tended to lean towards the Unionists, largely because his deputy, Herbert Morrison, had been much impressed by the Stormont prime minister, Lord Brookeborough, and by Northern Ireland's role in the Second World War. Conversely, he and other ministers had been unimpressed by the South's wartime neutrality.

Against this background the Cabinet made its hard political judgements. The first of these concerned the reality of Protestant power, and a desire to avoid stirring up Protestant anger. The Cabinet discussed the 1912 period, when Unionists had armed themselves with German guns, forming the

Ulster Volunteers and declaring themselves ready to use force to resist home rule.

record Labour's conclusion:

"Unless the people of Northern Ireland felt reasonably assured

of the support of the people of this country, there might be a revival of the Ulster Volunteers

and of other bodies intending to meet any threat of force by force; and this would bring nearer the danger of an outbreak of violence in Ireland."

The second issue was closer to home: that of the UK's wider strategic defence considerations. These were set out by the Cabinet secretary, Lord Normanbrook, who wrote that the South's move meant that keeping Northern Ireland within the UK had become "a matter of first-class strategic importance to this country". The issue was so vital, he argued, that even if Northern Ireland wanted to leave the UK it was unlikely any British government could allow it to do so.

The new bill in effect formulated a principle which is still a matter of everyday political argument: that Irish unity can only come about with the consent of a majority in Northern Ireland. What went by the board in 1949 was the issue which came back to haunt

them 20 years later: the question of the fairness of the Stormont system.

When Longford protested that Catholics were being discriminated against he was heard out by the Cabinet, he recalls, with "chilly indifference". The young Michael Foot supported the bill but went on to call for a commission of inquiry into Stormont's "monstrously undemocratic methods".

But the minutes show that the Cabinet decided to keep its distance: "It was the general view of ministers that the UK government would be ill-advised to appear to be interesting themselves in this matter." Exactly two decades later, another Labour administration was in power when the civil rights issue spilled over into the streets and into violence.

Wilson's own instincts were

radical, and the idea of pulling out of Northern Ireland was secretly considered, though rejected, before the August 1969 eruption of violence and deployment of British troops.

Wilson was fully prepared to scrap Stormont if the Unionists did not hand over many of their security powers, but they agreed and their institution survived.

Up to that point the Unionists had inflicted a decisive defeat on his government's authority by staging a general strike which brought down the power-sharing executive of the time. When Wilson referred to loyalists as "spies", they responded by defiantly sporting pieces of sponge on their laps.

Many, including Wilson, saw the success of the strike as the clearest possible indication of the Unionists' strength of numbers.

It was, in effect, a stark demonstration of the Protestant power to which Attlee and Healey had accorded such wary respect.

His sights lowered from the aspirational to the managerial, Wilson and his hapless Northern Ireland Secretary, Merlyn Rees, afterwards presided over a policy still remembered for its confusion and lack of direction.

Political talk got nowhere, and nor did further contacts with republicans. Amid the uncertainty the death toll rose.

But the confusion, Dublin minister Garret FitzGerald, worried that Wilson might opt for British withdrawal, lobbied Henry Kissinger, then US Secretary of State. He told Kissinger that Dublin might seek American assistance in persuading Britain out to embark

on a course of action that could be so fraught with dangers".

FitzGerald's fears, as he later acknowledged, were groundless. Far from pursuing Irish unity, the Callaghan administration of 1976-79 executed a dramatic change, transforming itself from the one-time champion of Catholic rights into, at least temporarily, the sponsor of Unionist interests.

Unionists were therefore apprehensive when he returned to power in 1974. They were right to worry, since in strictest secrecy he established a Cabinet Office committee to review options which included British withdrawal and independence.

But within months the Unionists inflicted a decisive defeat on his government's authority by staging a general strike which brought down the power-sharing executive of the time. When Wilson referred to loyalists as "spies", they responded by defiantly sporting pieces of sponge on their laps.

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Mo Mowlam: Anglo-Irish approach

1997?

Out of office, Labour at first reverted to a more pro-nationalist line, in the early Eighties adopting a policy of pursuing Irish unity with Unionist consent. In the past few years, however, Blair has significantly softened this approach.

He first removed Kevin McNamara, the shadow Northern Ireland spokesman who was identified with "old Labour" and known as a passionate Irish nationalist. His replacement, Marjorie Mowlam, and Blair himself have since made it clear that while the party is still technically committed to unity by consent it will not push Unionists in that direction.

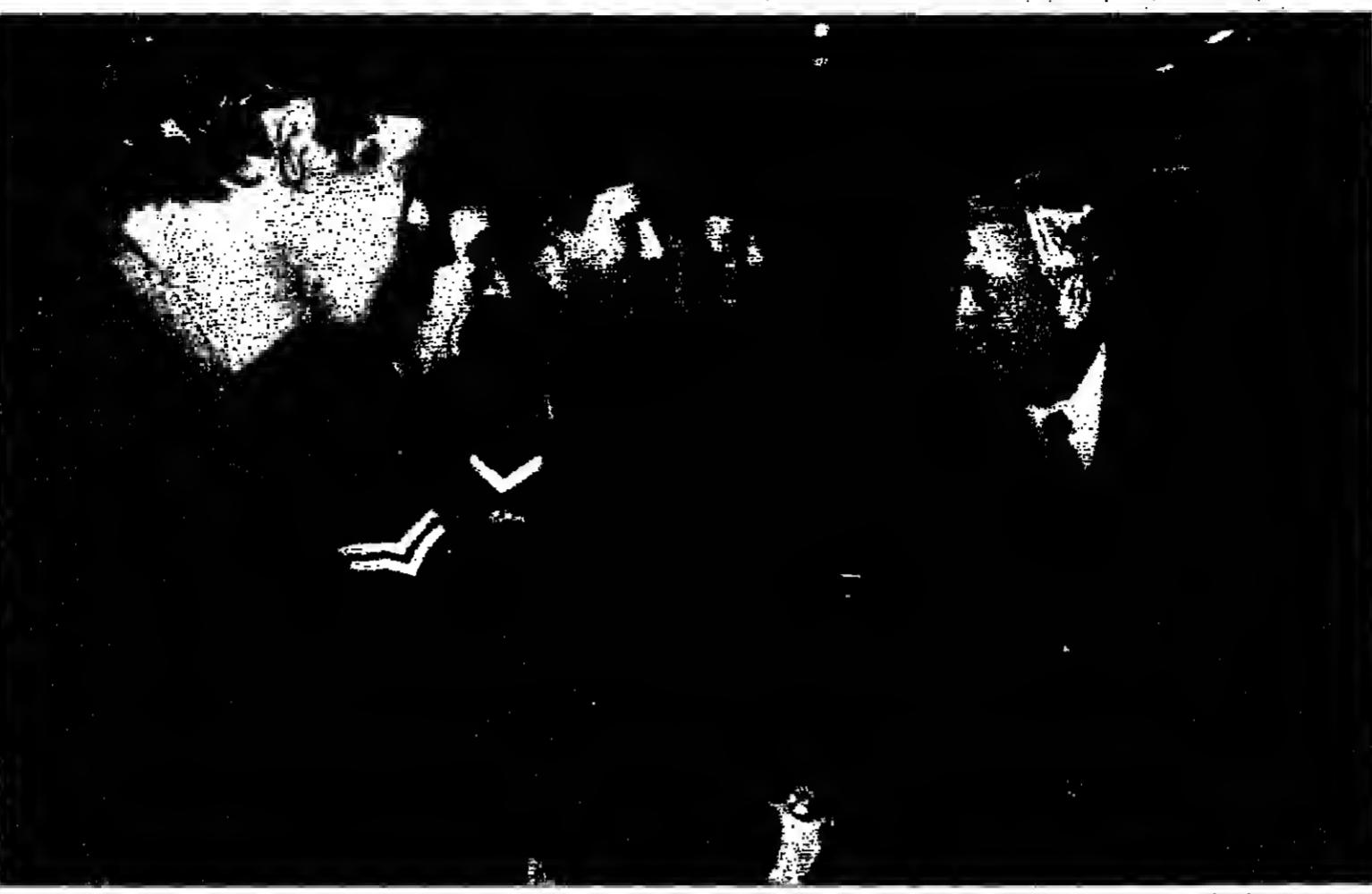
They will none the less place a big priority on an Anglo-Irish approach, involving the South in the administration of the North, and increasing London-Dublin co-operation. The Irish vote may no longer be a factor of note in British politics, but it has been replaced with the much stronger influence wielded today by Dublin.

This mild greenery is derived not so much from Labour's own instincts as from the general consensus (with the significant exception of the Unionists) that the political facts of life are Anglo-Irish. But many of the issues faced by his Labour predecessors will still be there. The defence issue may have dimmed, but the issue of the integrity of the UK will be on the Conservative agenda, and therefore on Labour's also.

And while the South's influence has grown, the reality of Unionism's strength of numbers is still evident. Only a few months ago the Drumcree episode, which amounted to a minor key rerun of the 1974 loyalist strike, provided a salutary reminder of the realpolitik of potential Protestant power.

Blair would bring to the post strong instincts on Ireland, though his general approach suggests he would not favour any Wilson-style adventurism. His policies may be further circumscribed by the Tories, who in opposition might well opt for a stronger pro-Union line.

But the most important determinant of Labour's approach as it threads its way through the Irish minefield, may well be the size of its majority. A strong Blair government will have a tricky enough task in working towards peace and agreement; but a weak administration, dependent on Unionist support in the South, would be something close to a nightmare for nationalists, and indeed for Blair himself.



Prime Minister Harold Wilson inspects the troops in Ulster. Wilson's instincts were radical and British withdrawal was secretly considered.

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Vote now for the Non-Personality of the Year

There is still time to vote in our Non-Personality of 1996 competition! Yes, this is your chance to nominate the person who, in your opinion, has done most to lower the tone of 1996 and make it a duller, drearier year.

Just to remind you of the purpose of the contest - the whole idea is to嘲讽 the vicious trend of things like the Today Programme Personality of the Year. BBC Sports Personality of the Year and so on, in which the winners generally have very little personality and haven't done very much. Typically, it tends to be an army officer who has got an Olympic silver medal in the bobsleigh, a member of the Royal Family who has got through the year without being divorced, someone who spent a year as a hostage in Beirut etc.

But our Non-Personality of the Year has to be someone who genuinely seems to have no particular personality and has genuinely achieved nothing at all.

Past winners of the Non-Personality of the Year include Peter Mayle, "Doc-

tor" Brian Mawhinney, Terry Waite, Noel Edmonds and Peter Mayle again.

This year, however, we are not naming any names. This is partly because we are scared of libel suits, and partly because Peter Mayle might win again. So, without any names or pack drill, here are our nominations for the title of Non-Personality of the Year, 1996!

• That chap who does the weather forecast without being able to understand a word of what he is saying.

• The girl that Melvyn Bragg brings along to *Start The Week* because if he didn't there wouldn't be any female on the programme.

• That bright young presenter of children's TV programme, you know the one.

• Any journalist who tries to turn *The Archers* into a news story.

• Anyone who has been sonically fired from this Irish thing called *Riverdance* where they only move half their body, so presumably it would only be worth firing half of him anyway ...

• That bloke who comes up behind you at 90mph on

the meaningless word "supermodel".

• Any child of the late Robert Maxwell.

• That bloke who drives along the motorway in front of you in the middle or fast lane at a solid 50mph, no more, and won't move over, even when you flash your lights at him from behind.

• That woman you sit next to who spends the whole dinner party saying how good *Two Fat Ladies* is, and you finally say "Yes, but why is it so good?" What do they actually ever do except laugh, when nothing funny is happening or being said?

• Any director of Camelot.

• Anyone who tries to explain the windfall tax.

• The person at the BBC who persists in believing that the Budget speech is an effective piece of theatre.

• A footballer who is more famous for being sent off or missing a penalty than anything else.

• Anyone who is supposedly a model for a character in *Absolutely Fabulous*.

• The person who coined



Miles Franklin

the motorway and flashes his headlights if you won't get out of the way quick enough.

• Any director of *Camelot*.

• Anyone who tries to explain the windfall tax.

• The person at the BBC who persists in believing that the Budget speech is an effective piece of theatre.

• A footballer who is more famous for being sent off or missing a penalty than anything else.

• Anyone who is supposedly a model for a character in *Absolutely Fabulous*.

• The person who coined

his name for legal reasons, and equally obviously we wouldn't be lifting a finger to help him if we didn't have a legal obligation to do so.

• Anyone who still wears his baseball cap back to front.

• Anyone who is idiot enough to buy the new England football strip, or the new Manchester United one, or any of them ...

• Anyone who rings you up and says, "I'll tell you why I rang".

• Anyone who goes out and puts money on the much-vaunted *Today* programme's racing tips.

• The person at the BBC who dreamt up the slogan: "It's all for you on Radio 2".

• Any of the many people who ring me up and call me Mr Maynard and then try to sell me time-shares, double glazing, etc, whereas Mr Maynard is the name of my wife's first husband, which isn't the best or most likely way of going about selling me time-shares, double glazing, etc ...

More nominations for Non-Personality of 1996 coming soon. Please feel free to nominate someone yourself!

مكتبة من الأصل

the commentators

Labour may flinch from a new top tax



Donald Macintyre

The party has to confront the ghosts of 1992 – when its 'tax and spend' baggage was famously dumped

Luij's in Covent Garden is a restaurant even more firmly embedded in political folklore than Chez Nico, scene of Ken Clarke's alleged indiscretions last week. It was there that Neil Kinnock, thinking aloud in January 1992 at dinner with journalists, floated the idea of "phasing in" the party's planned increases in national insurance contributions to limit their electoral damage. The story of the retreat hit most of the front pages. A furious John Smith confronted Kinnock, and the idea was swiftly dropped.

All that is well known. Less well known is that after the episode, a still smouldering John Smith went into the Commons smoking room and complained to several Labour MPs about Kinnock raising with journalists a proposal he had not agreed with his shadow Chancellor. The MPs chuckled and nodded sympathetically; there was certainly justice in his complaint. But after Smith had left they took out ball-points and paper and worked out, for the first time, just what the planned increases in taxes and national contributions would mean for their own pay packets. And were suitably shocked. Suddenly the fears about tax that Neil Kinnock had been addressing at Luigi's didn't seem so absurd. And they seemed even less so when Labour went down to its fourth successive defeat less than three months later.

The incident serves only to underline how decisive a turning point 1992 was for Labour on tax. Once Smith was leader, almost his first act was to allow Gordon Brown to set about clamping the party's tax and spend baggage with awe-inspiring ruthlessness. In January 1992 the Tories' "tax bombshell" advertising campaign had been clinically effective because it was (loosely) based on a truth. So long as Blair was the leader and Brown the shadow Chancellor, that would never again be so. And they were right: the big lesson of the previous decade had been that Anglo-Saxon electorates, no longer trusting politicians to spend wisely or well, had drawn a line: no new moats.

But now the party has to confront the ghosts of 1992 one last time. The biggest (or if not the biggest, then certainly the most potentially symbolic) decision it has to take before the general election is whether to increase to 50 per cent the top rate of tax for those earning more than £100,000 a year. The party is committed to announcing any changes to income tax rates before polling day, and will do so in late January or early February.

The case is powerful. It would not raise much more than £1bn. But it would also affect only 0.5 per cent of the population. A new 50 per cent rate would still be significantly less than the 60 per cent that the country's highest earners rubbed along with for eight years

there are several problems. One is their own tax-raising record since 1992. The other is that Labour has not committed itself to raising a single tax. A top rate hike, so the counter-argument goes, could give them just the opportunity they so far lack. Where will it stop? The Tories will scream, £100,000 today, £50,000 tomorrow? Some Labour politicians doubt whether rich earners with inventive accountants would anyway yield even as much as the advertised £1bn plus. Much more important, though, is the opponents say, is the threat that the remarkable reversal in the positions of the two parties on tax would be jeopardised.

But there is another point: income tax is not the only progressive weapon in a chancellor's armoury. Particularly in a Labour government prepared to be serious about welfare reform – and reducing some of the universal benefits paid to the better off. It would be surprising, for example, if Labour went into the next election ruling out an end to child benefit for higher rate taxpayers. This matter because Labour will probably have to rule out a new top rate if it doesn't rule it in. Otherwise, it risks all the electoral pain of imposing the tax without the advantages of actually doing so. No decision has been taken. But my sense is that the forces are gathering rapidly against a new top rate.



Peter Victor

Horrett Campbell, diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, set about a group of toddlers with a 2ft machete. He thought he heard their voices taunting him, calling him 'nigger'

Loog before Horrett Campbell was arrested, long before his description or picture was circulated, I guessed he would be black. Afro-Caribbean, not much different from me.

Campbell set about a group of toddlers with a 2ft machete because he thought they were "little devils". He heard their voices taunting him, calling him "nigger". Christopher Clunis, known to be mentally ill, also heard voices taunting him with racist jibes. He stabbed Jonathan Zito to death in an underground station.

Last year, Stephen Laudat, a known paranoid schizophrenic released into the community without any medication, stabbed Bryan Bennett 32 times because he believed that he was Ronnie Kravitz. An independent inquiry into the killing concluded that racial prejudice and poor co-operation between doctors and social workers helped turn Laudat, 26, into a violent killer.

All three were black men, tormented by real or imagined racism. In each case the authorities, through ignorance or prejudice, failed to give them appropriate treatment, and innocent people were hurt or killed.

Since the 1970s studies have shown that a disproportionate number of black people, and especially, undergo treatment for mental illness: schizophrenia and psychosis rather than depression. Research by Professor Glyn Harrison, of the University of Nottingham, revealed last year that immigrants with Afro-Caribbean backgrounds are five times more likely to develop schizophrenia than other population groups, more than other immigrant groups, and more than if they had stayed in the Caribbean.

Before the Government began closing our mental hospitals, those black immigrants admitted to them were five times more likely to be diagnosed as schizophrenic than UK-born first admissions. People born in Britain to Afro-Caribbean parents were three times as likely to be admitted to hospital as diagnosed schizophrenics as other black people and 12 times more likely than white Britons.

So, do Afro-Caribbeans living in Britain have a genetic predisposition to mental illness or is there some other explanation? A number of theories have emerged in recent years.

First, there is the role of the police. Many more Afro-Caribbeans have been "sectioned"

(locked up) under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act as a result of contact with the police than after referral by doctors. In 1983 Mind, the mental health charity, completed a three-year study which found a disproportionate number of Afro-Caribbeans among police referrals and criticised the police for "institutional racism".

Institutional racism in British society was suggested as a contributory factor by the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Kenneth Calman, in 1992 when he carried out a study that found schizophrenia was three to six times more common among Afro-Caribbeans living in England than among those in Jamaica. His subsequent report suggested that the mental illness may be triggered by stress caused by racism and unemployment.

Finally, there are suggestions that black people have been misdiagnosed as mentally ill because their behaviour is radically different to their white counterparts. Explosive displays of extreme emotion such as anger or distress, common to black culture but also to white doctors and social workers, lead to confused signals.

For whatever reason, black people are disproportionately likely to come into the care of the mental health services. Once there, like Stephen Laudat and Christopher Clunis, they are unlikely to be well served.

Research into psychiatric treatment suggests that black people have been given harsher medication than equivalent white groups. In the mid-1980s, it was found that Afro-Caribbeans were more likely to receive powerful drug treatment in secure facilities, and they were more likely to be given electroconvulsive therapy (ECT).

Orville Blackwood, 31, died in Broadmoor Hospital in 1991 after he was injected with tranquillisers. An inquiry report by Professor Henschel Prins, of the Midlands Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice at Loughborough University, concluded: "There is racism in Broadmoor Hospital. It is not on the whole deliberate or necessarily conscious, although there was some evidence of direct racism." The report notes that when the inquiry team first visited Broadmoor Hospital two months after Blackwood's death, his "name on the patients' list of the occupational therapy office wall was crossed through with 'RIP' annotated against it, and nearby a copy

of a magazine cartoon of Orville the Duck was still visible".

Dr Veena Soni Raleigh, author of the Mental Health Foundation's most recent report (published last year), says: "There is overwhelming evidence that African-Caribbean people are subject to greater coercive control by both the psychiatric and criminal justice systems. It is widely believed that community and primary health-care services often fail to provide African-Caribbean people with the preventive and supportive care needed at an early stage to prevent the development of a crisis in mental health."

The common thread that runs through disproportionate sectioning by the police, misdiagnosis by health workers, and mistreatment of black mental patients is racism. Not the risible spectacle of skinheads marching through London's East End, but the hard, unspeakable reality that in Britain a black life is worth less than that of others, or is even worthless.

Blacks exercise little economic power, and almost no political power. They are disproportionately unemployed, low paid, from fragmented families. The Labour Party takes the black vote for granted, the Tories and Liberals can't be bothered to chase it.

Consequently, who cares if blacks are given inappropriate medication, mistreated or abused in care? Why worry about sectioning them, locking them up, whether they are "niggers" or not?

My life could not have been more different from Horrett Campbell's. I come from a stable, nurturing home and had a better education than many of my peers. I have a career, a wonderful wife, a beautiful daughter, good friends. And yet a thousand tiny slights, daily reminders of my "worthless" status gnaw at me until I see it with silent, suppressed rage.

Should I be troubled by women clutching their handbags as I pass by, bar staff ignoring me until white people have been served, receptionists assuming I am a delivery boy, patronising fools telling me, "You should be working for the *Guardian*, man"? Or am I being too sensitive, are these things really happening? Where does awareness end and paranoia begin? Without the comforts and privileges I enjoy, would I even now be in a secure mental home? Or would I be heading for a local school, clutching a machete, like Horrett Campbell?

Nothing to fear from techno-corn

by Nicholas Schoon



Genetic engineers have encountered apathy and uninformed hostility from the public

life forms, in a predictable, repeatable way. They found out how to move fragments of DNA carrying entire genes between different kinds of bacteria and viruses.

The mind-boggling implications of this were instantly recognised. Mankind could take a selected attribute from one creature and transfer it to a completely unrelated one. Thus a bacterium could be made to produce insulin, the indispensable human hormone which diabetics lack.

The dangers were also recognised at the time. What if a man-made organism also acquired a destructive attribute and was able to flourish, out of control? These fears led to a brief moratorium on genetic engineering research in the mid-Seventies.

Having satisfied themselves and governments that these fears were exaggerated, the researchers continued, aided

by a flood of stock-market money pouring into the new genetic engineering firms. But making the new technology work turned out to be much harder than had been hoped.

Even the simplest bacterium is an extraordinarily complex machine. Persuading it to take an alien gene from an unrelated species and incorporate it so that it was passed on from generation to generation was hard enough. Getting it to express that gene vigorously – using it to make copious quantities of the enzyme or hormone which the gene "coded" for and was the desired end product, was harder still.

These difficulties caused delays and disillusion with the development of genetic engineering in the Eighties. Now, however, the new technology is rushing into our lives. There are dozens of products from medicine, agriculture and industry which rely on GMOs – genetically modified organisms. Already a variety of common food additives (vitamins, amino acids) across the Western world are made using GMOs.

And Europe is about to receive much more GMO food.

For the United States, the country which has done most to develop the technology and debate its application, has decided to allow GMO varieties of two of its most important crops, sweet corn and soya, to be grown in large quantities for the first time this year. They have already been harvested, mixed with the ordinary kind of grain and eaten and exported.

The European Union has licensed use of this soya, which has been modified to make it resistant to a weedkiller. It has

not yet given approval to the genetically modified sweet corn, which belongs to the Swiss

drugs and chemicals giant Ciba, even though it has now reached Europe.

Corn and soya are used in a variety of processed foods and the US is the biggest exporter of these crops – so very soon products with some GMO content will be splattered all over the supermarket shelves. Free trade and the American decision to embrace the new technology have made a mockery of the intention of Britain's supermarkets to label all foods containing GMOs because that is what their customers wanted.

Were they to stick with that policy, they would soon either have to label a huge variety of products, or begin "negative labelling". That means sourcing products which have no GMO content, and declaring them as such. Because such products will soon be minority items, they will also become more expensive.

The large number of geneticists who have wanted the maximum of public information and debate about the application of their new science find this deeply frustrating. For years they have been trying to make the public and the press take an interest in genetic engineering, battling against the fact that you really need to understand molecular genetics to at least a level standard to grapple with it.

There have been several symposia and exercises aimed at making ordinary people judge the new technology on an informed basis. But mostly the scientists and a handful of policy makers have encountered apathy and uninformed hostility from the public and press alike. And now, abruptly, genetic engineering has arrived in our midst en masse.

It sounds, and is, a regrettable state of affairs. But we ought to be optimistic about the abilities of our societies to handle new technologies. By and large, we embrace them only if the benefits outweigh the costs – and we also try, continuously, to reduce those costs.

Think of the car as an example. If a technology turns out to be a loser, we are also capable of rejecting it. Think of nuclear power, which is in retreat across most of the world despite decades of backing from the most powerful organisations in the world, the governments of nation states.

Genetic engineering will bring mishaps and stupidities in its wake. But, overall, it's highly likely to be a good thing, for which the benefits handsomely outweigh the risks. Enjoy the corn. Enjoy the beans. They may have been snuck in on us, but they'll still make a whole some meal.

Driven mad by racial abuse?



Peter Victor

Horrett Campbell, diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, set about a group of toddlers with a 2ft machete. He thought he heard their voices taunting him, calling him 'nigger'

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Broker deals £200m blow to RJB shares

Tom Stevenson
City Editor

RJB Mining, Britain's biggest coal producer, was dealt a crushing blow by its own stock-broker yesterday after a profits downgrade from BZW caused a 23 per cent fall in its share price. The sharp fall, in unusually heavy trading, wiped £200m from RJB's market capitalisation, slashing the value of its 9,000 worker-shareholders' stakes.

BZW's research report focused attention on RJB's ability to compete with cheaper overseas imports of coal in the wake of sterling's rapid recent appreciation. BZW refined in its profits forecast for the current year from £196m to £185m and next year from £232m to £192m. The two-year shortfall of £50m pushed the shares 112.5p lower to 37.5p.

That compares with the 551p at which chief executive Richard Budge sold 400,000 shares, netting more than £2m, as part of a £95m share buyback in July. That bonanza came on top of a more than 60 per cent rise in his salary to £66,000.

Further evidence was provided a month ago that RJB's directors felt the company's prospects remained heated.

RJB Mining



exercised share options granted at 250p and immediately sold in the market at 55p.

There was heavy trading yesterday of almost 5 million shares. This was understood to have been caused by institutions, which had been brought into the stock by BZW in 1994 when RJB acquired most of British Coal's assets, taking flight at the house broker's first apparent change of stance on the stock.

A spokesman for the company insisted that the forecast reduction only brought BZW into line with the market consensus. BZW, he said, remained a buyer of the stock.

The collapse in RJB's share price is the latest twist in a controversial period since it took what was seen as a huge gamble in buying what remained of the British coal mining industry.

Estimates of coal demand for 1998 differ wildly. Richard Budge has forecast a need for 51 million tonnes of coal a year, while Oterra, the economic analysts, put demand as low as 15 million tonnes.

Finally, although RJB has reduced its cost of production sharply, it still faces stiff competition from large open-cast mines in north and south America, against which its deep shaft mines, even sited near the power stations they serve, find it hard to compete.

The cost of producing coal in Britain has been cut from about £33 a tonne in 1993 to £30 or less now, but the generators are pressing for even lower prices that would compete with the spot price of marginal volumes of imported coal.

In September RJB announced a 2.5p leap in its interim dividend to 8p after reporting that profits of £86.1m (£85.5m).

US deficit reaches record \$48bn

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

America's balance of payments was in the red by a record amount in the third quarter. Yet financial markets were unfazed. Although the dollar dipped briefly, Wall Street climbed in morning trading and Treasury bond prices rose.

The deficit on trade in goods and services and investment income widened to \$47.96bn from \$40.21bn in the second quarter. This earlier figure was revised up by more than \$1bn.

from the initial estimate. The shortfall on trade in goods alone jumped to \$51.59bn from \$46.99bn, putting a figure on recent anecdotal evidence from exporters that the strength of the dollar has hurt their overseas sales.

Yesterday's figures also showed that net foreign investment in US Treasury bonds reached a record \$42bn during the quarter, while overseas purchases of other securities rose to \$33bn. Purchases of US assets by foreigners climbed more than American purchases of

overseas assets. Although this underlined the potential vulnerability of US share prices, the Dow Jones index passed the 6,500 level by mid-morning with a 37-point rise. The FTSE 100 index in London closed more than 24 points up at 4,035.7 in very quiet trading.

The pound's index against a range of other currencies was unchanged at 93.2 yesterday evening, reflecting the majority view that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, will leave interest rates unchanged after his meeting this

CIM said the Government needed to take "pre-emptive action".

morning with the Governor of the Bank of England.

Eddie George has said base rates will need to rise in time, but comments last week reassured the City that he would not push Mr Clarke too hard before Christmas.

The Chartered Institute of Marketing yesterday urged Mr Clarke to raise interest rates again to ensure the economy does not return to the roller-coaster ride of the 1980s.

The CIM said the Government had resigned as chief executive.

The company said it was selling US Coal to Rencoal, an American mining group for \$28.6m. Analysts had expected up to \$50m from the sale, but Costain said US Coal would re-

Costain coal fetches just £28m

Patrick Toohr

Costain, the troubled international engineering and construction group, last night announced the long-awaited sale of its US mining business for a fraction of the hoped-for price and issued a profits warning as it revealed that Alan Lovell had resigned as chief executive.

The company said it was selling US Coal to Rencoal, an American mining group for \$28.6m. Analysts had expected up to \$50m from the sale, but Costain said US Coal would re-

port losses £1.1m worse than expected because of "production difficulties" caused by "adverse geological conditions" in September and October. Losses in the Middle East construction business will also be \$4m more than forecast, Costain warned.

Costain is also raising £23.4m from the sale of its one-third interest in London-based Metacorp, a Malaysian group 23 per cent owned by Intria, owner of a 40 per cent stake in Costain.

Mr Lovell said he was stepping down following the final

Premiership strugglers to seek listings

Patrick Toohr

Sunderland and Southampton yesterday became the latest football clubs to sign up for a stock market listing, but the pair of Premiership strugglers will command vastly different price tags.

Sunderland, languishing third from bottom, is merging with Secure Retirement, a quoted property development and healthcare company, which began life providing sheltered housing for the elderly.

The reverse takeover, which gives Sunderland a full Stock Exchange listing, values the south coast club at slightly more than £10m.

That is significantly lower than the £47.4m Sunderland, 15th in the Premier League, is valued at under the terms of a placing and offer of shares at 58p. Fans will have to pay at least £585 to become shareholders.

Guy Askham, chairman of Southampton, said the difference in valuation was partly due to the more conservative treatment his club used when accounting for players' transfer fees.

The reverse takeover will see Secure listed as Southampton Leisure Holdings and provide the football club with instant access to about £5m of fresh capital. "Secure is bringing to the

Barclays deal with Morgan 'risks 600 jobs'

Jill Treanor
Banking Correspondent

More than 600 jobs are at risk as a result of Barclays' decision to sell part of its global custody service to Morgan Stanley, banking unions warned yesterday.

The fears were voiced as Guardian Royal Exchange, the insurance group, said it was cutting 350 jobs as part of a restructuring of its asset and branch network after the £4.8bn acquisition of Legal & General's commercial insurance operations in July.

But, the banking union, attacked the insurance job losses as "arbitrary" and claimed the Barclays' job cuts would be a "devastating blow" to Trowbridge, the Wiltshire town where much of Barclays' custody business is based.

Unifin, which represents three-quarters of Barclays' staff, said only 67 people involved in "front-end" relationship and client services departments were to be transferred to Morgan Stanley as part of the deal announced yesterday.

Many of these will have to relocate from Trowbridge to Morgan Stanley's London office at Canary Wharf. Unifin said:

The price of the deal, which has been the subject of much speculation in recent months, was not disclosed although Barclays said it would have "no material effect" on its accounts.

The transaction involves approximately \$250bn of the assets currently administered by Barclays Global Securities Services. The combined global custody assets of the two businesses are expected to reach approximately \$390bn, making it one of the largest in the world.

Under the terms of the deal Barclays will provide sub-custodial services to Morgan Stanley for 18 months after the deal is completed in the second quarter of 1997.

"This means the sub-custodial staff may only be required until the third quarter of 1998," Unifin said.

A spokeswoman for Barclays said the bank was hopeful of transferring staff to other positions.

"Our aim is to avoid redundancies, although there may well be job losses over after two years," the Barclays spokeswoman said.

Jim Lowe, assistant secretary to Unifin, said he was pressing for a series of measures to be introduced at Trowbridge, from where Barclays has already transferred another part of its custody operation to Peterborough.

Large opposes watchdog reform

Peter Rodgers
Financial Editor

Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, has hit back at other City regulators who have been backing a radical reform of the financial policing system.

It emerged yesterday that Sir Andrew has dismissed proposals for change backed by the chief executives of the Securities and Futures Authority and the Personal Investment Authority, calling the ideas they favour "disruptive and time-consuming".

Richard Farrant, chief executive of the Securities and Futures Authority, and Colette Bowe, his counterpart at the Personal Investment Authority, have both publicly supported a

shake-up in which regulation is split along functional lines between a body responsible for the health of financial institutions and a second organisation devoted to financial consumer protection.

One version of the reforms, put forward by Michael Taylor, an academic and a former employee of the Bank of England, has become known as the "Twin Peaks" system, with two specialist regulators reporting separately to the Government.

After deliberately keeping a low profile in the argument until recently, Sir Andrew said in a speech in Rome at the weekend that he was sceptical about a switch to a functional system, because there would be no guarantee that it would be better than the existing one.

He did not dispute it would work but said: "There is a guarantee that it will be extremely disruptive and time-consuming to practitioners and public alike in getting there."

Sir Andrew, who is expected to have his contract at SIB renewed shortly, said evolution was far cheaper than revolution. SIB was working hard to improve co-operation between the various regulatory bodies under its control, as an alternative to switching to a functional system.

Sir Andrew believes a neat division between wholesale and retail regulation is not possible because so many firms are involved in both.

His comments echo remarks recently by Howard Davies, deputy governor of the Bank of

England, who said that while there was scope for consolidation among the regulators a substantial change would be too disruptive to be worthwhile.

There have also been hints from Labour that it could take several years for its own proposed regulatory reforms to reach the statute book.

One source said the debate has become highly polarised and was causing a split between senior regulators and their own staff.

Under Labour Type plans junior regulators would be rolled up into the SIB so their chief executives would lose their independent roles, a threat which has provoked the rash of counter-proposals, which would involve dismantling and rebuilding the system.



Disruptive: Sir Andrew says change is time-consuming

STOCK MARKETS

| FTSE 100 | | | Dow Jones* | | | Nikkei | | |
|----------|---------|------|------------|----------|-------|--------|--|--|
| 4035.70 | +24.10 | +0.6 | 4073.10 | 3632.30 | 3.95 | | | |
| 4411.90 | +26.90 | +0.6 | 4568.60 | 4015.20 | 3.57 | | | |
| 2003.90 | +12.10 | +0.6 | 2022.10 | 1816.60 | 3.87 | | | |
| 2144.88 | +7.44 | +0.3 | 2244.35 | 1954.06 | 3.22 | | | |
| 1974.62 | +11.49 | +0.6 | 1994.54 | 1791.95 | 3.82 | | | |
| 5491.52 | +27.58 | +0.4 | 5547.79 | 5032.94 | 2.05 | | | |
| 20822.12 | +218.41 | +1.1 | 22695.80 | 19734.70 | 0.781 | | | |
| 13342.46 | +198.23 | +1.5 | 13530.95 | 10204.87 | 3.131 | | | |
| 2891.00 | +33.76 | +1.2 | 2909.81 | 2253.36 | 1.607 | | | |

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES

| Short sterling* | | UK medium gilt* | | US long hand | |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|--------------|------|
| 6.06 | 6.81 | 7.49 | 7.44 | 7.55 | 7.80 |
| 5.69 | 5.69 | 5.73 | 6.48 | 8.05 | |
| 0.31 | 0.47 | 2.43 | 1.29 | - | |
| 3.28 | 3.25 | 5.77 | 6.11 | 6.67 | 6.88 |

*Mid market rates

**Basis point

***Year Ago

****20 Years Ago

*****40 Years Ago

*****50 Years Ago

*****60 Years Ago

*****70 Years Ago

*****80 Years Ago

*****90 Years Ago

*****100 Years Ago

*****110 Years Ago

*****120 Years Ago

*****130 Years Ago



COMMENT

Too late for Lang to cut off electricity mergers

Poor little Northern Electric. The spirited defence it launched yesterday against its assailant seems unlikely to do the trick, even though the shares promise to pay out 20 per cent of their value next year with 10 per cent a year promised thereafter. Northern's largest shareholder, the Pns, seems prepared to give it a whirl, but with Labour now fully committed to a much harsher regulatory regime on top of the windfall profits tax, most shareholders are going to just take their 65p a share and run.

Northern's only hope now is of Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, stepping in to stop the bid, but even this looks forlorn one. True, mergers policy under Mr Lang has not been operated on a consistent basis, but even so he will be hard pressed to justify the somersault he'd have to perform to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the latest two American bids for regional electricity companies.

About the only basis he'd have for such action against this and the coincidental American bid for East Midlands Electricity is the loss of comparitors it would involve for Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator. When there were 12 separately quoted recs to compare, this hardly seemed to matter but now we are down to just five it becomes more of an issue. On this logic the two latest bids would be referred as an act of conservatism.

Even so, there are few genuine competition issues involved here, nor in truth are

these companies such an obviously important part of our national heritage that they need preserving. Having allowed the slaughter to persist largely unchecked thus far, it would ill become Mr Lang to call a halt now. David Morris, chairman, is going to have to go down fighting after all but it's not a bad epitaph that he can attach to his name. He has a small place in history as the man who demonstrated with his scorched earth defence against Trafalgar House how much value there really was within these extraordinary companies, causing a rethink of regulatory policy in the process.

Murdoch's rivals need concrete proposals

The digital TV revolution is spawning a whole new army of instant experts on so-called "conditional access", the obligation being placed on Rupert Murdoch to make his digital set box technology available to rival broadcasters. How many of these people - consultants, advisers, lawyers, regulators, technicians, politicians and journalists - really understand what they are talking about is a moot point but on one thing everyone is agreed: what happens over the next year is critically important in determining the future in this country certainly of pay TV if not broadcast TV more generally.

Today brings another flurry of submissions to the interminable consultation process on

these issues. Despite the fact that any question of forcing Mr Murdoch to license his technology to rivals has already been ruled out, no-one seems to have altered their position very much. ITV still insists that broadcasters must be allowed to distribute their own smart cards and manage their own subscribers. Mr Murdoch's technology should be made to accommodate these needs, ITV says. The BBC goes further; what it wants is a "dual standard box" with its own slot for BBC smart cards and its own chip for BBC interactive services. Quite what the difference is between this position and the one the Government has already ruled out is anyone's guess.

The man charged with steering a course through this minefield is Don Cruickshank, director general of Ofcom. The idea is that he should regulate conditional access for digital pay TV in much the same way as he does now for the telecoms industry, where part of his job is to ensure that rival telecoms companies get access to BT's network on fair, non-discriminatory and equal terms. That's what the Government wants to do with the Murdoch digital pay TV system. When you think about it, this in itself is quite a concession to rival broadcasters, for Mr Murdoch developed the technology for his own digital needs, not for the greater good of others.

The big question is whether Mr Cruickshank is up to the job, for this is no public service telephone company he's dealing

with here. Mr Murdoch is one of the most aggressively commercial media players in the world and he will use every tool available to him to ensure his present monopoly of analogue pay TV is duplicated in the digital world. Mr Cruickshank's unenviable task is to ensure he doesn't.

To stand any chance of making a reasonable fist of it, however, he first needs to know what rival broadcasters want to do. Other than stamp their feet and chant "down with Mr Murdoch" there's not much evidence of them doing anything. Oh everyone's got a strategy, no doubt about that, but where are the advanced business plans? Rival broadcasters should stop winging about the terms of conditional access and put forward some concrete proposals for utilising it. Only then will some progress perhaps be made.

More embarrassment for the regulators

The DTI bags one or two insider dealers a year, and they seem more likely to get community service than a jail sentence. The Serious Fraud Office wins small cases but has a poor record on most of the big ones, including Maxwell.

Meanwhile, the great and the good are arguing for a switch to the use of civil law and regulatory penalties to deter wrongdoing of many kinds, from insider dealing to market manipulation. The theory is that the burden

of proof is lower in civil and regulatory cases and this should raise the score-line. All very sensible in theory, but in practice it seems increasingly difficult to be confident that the civil penalties work any better.

The Securities and Futures Authority found to its embarrassment in the summer that the rulebooks were not tightly drawn enough to take any action at all against the people at the top of Barings - the chairman Peter Baker and his deputy Andrew Tucker.

Now the SFA is faced with a succession of embarrassing defeats by the small fry of Barings, starting with Ron Baker, Nick Lesson's overall boss, who has successfully fought off an attempt to debar him from the City. This continued yesterday with confirmation of our report of a settlement with Mary Walz, Mr Baker's deputy. The remaining SFA cases against James But and Ian Hopkins, two other former Barings executives, look set to go the same way.

Having been unable to pin management responsibility where it is due - at the top - the SFA seems to have resorted to a scattergun approach lower down, but still without success. The best hope now is that it can push through its new rulebook, making it easier to bring charges against the very top management, and giving a real incentive to improve standards. As Nick Durfacher, chairman of the SFA, said last week: "If the management structure is sound and managers are up to the job, then a fire started by a rogue will remain local and be quickly extinguished." Quite so.

Knight's reforms receive cautious welcome at A&L

Jill Treanor
and Nic Cicutti

Compromise Treasury proposals to amend the forthcoming Building Societies Bill received a cautious welcome yesterday from societies preparing to convert to banks, as Alliance & Leicester members voted overwhelmingly in favour of a switch.

Around 500 mostly disgruntled Alliance & Leicester members attended the meeting at the London Arena in Docklands. Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester said Treasury suggestions that it might amend a controversial "10-per-cent rule" on takeovers showed that dialogue over the Bill was still possible.

The Bill, to be published in draft form next week, proposes to do away with protection

against predators for any demutualised society which takes over or merges with another institution within the first five years.

Woolwich, Northern Rock and Alliance & Leicester argue that they are in a much more vulnerable position to action from unrepresentative minorities.

Angela Knight, the Treasury minister, told *The Independent* earlier this week that she was looking at ways of protecting a converted society from being "bounced" by a small minority of shareholders into removing the five-year protection from takeover.

Simon Everard, chairman of Alliance & Leicester, said at the end of the often ill-tempered meeting, that 70 per cent of investing members had voted and that 96 per cent of them voted in favour. He said 97 per cent of borrowers who voted were in

requisition a special general meeting of the newly floated company and vote to abandon the five-year protection against takeovers.

A spokeswoman said: "The aim is to make sure that companies are not forced to give up their protection by a small action group."

Although the way this can be done has yet to be fully considered, in order not to fall foul of the Companies Act, one option might be to increase the proportion of shareholders who would then have a vote in favour of a merger in a ballot.

Peter White, chief executive, said this was the method used by Abbey when it floated on the market and was also fair to the majority of members who had £2,000 or less in their accounts.

were in favour. Speakers from the floor raised questions ranging from the share distribution scheme prosed by the society to the share options being awarded to the board of the society.

"If the basic principle of mutuality is one investor, one vote, why didn't you tell us in January [when the conversion plans were announced]?" asked Patrick Mountain, who has received over 1,500 letters from furious members of the society.

They wanted Alliance & Leicester to award shares proportionate to the amount of savings they had with the society rather than the proposed flat rate of 250 per member.

Peter White, chief executive, said this was the method used by Abbey when it floated on the market and was also fair to the majority of members who had £2,000 or less in their accounts.



Fair to everyone; Peter White backed the Abbey National method of distributing shares when it went to market

Booming Compass to set new course

Nigel Cope

Compass Group, the catering company that has been expanding rapidly over the last three years, is to shift its focus to organic growth.

Francis Mackay, chief executive, said: "Our strategy is to grow organically and improve margins through a combination of better local purchasing power and economies of scale."

He was speaking as Compass reported a sharp jump in annual profits boosted by the first full-year contribution from Eurest International as well as the European France and Service America acquisitions.

He said each of the group's divisions had shown good organic growth and margin improvement on a like-for-like basis.

In the UK the healthcare catering market has been particularly strong. In the US the margin rose in line with expectations to 4.2 per cent from 3.9

per cent and there was a good growth of 7.1 per cent in turnover on a like-for-like basis.

In the continental Europe and rest of the world division, the results were boosted by the integration of Eurest. Margins were boosted by increased volumes of food and beverages.

Compass group profits, before an exceptional item of £13m, jumped 56 per cent from £73.2m to £114m in the year to 29 September.

Turnover rose by more than 70 per cent to £2.65bn and the dividend was raised 13 per cent to 6.6p.

Compass said it did not expect any material impact from the strength of sterling in the current year as over 90 per cent of its key currencies are hedged.

Though the emphasis has shifted to organic growth the company said some smaller "in-fills" acquisitions were still likely. However, management has ruled out deals on the scale of Eurest.

No joy for Facia creditors

Nigel Cope

Creditors of the collapsed Facia retail group were denied the opportunity to question former directors of the company at a creditors' meeting in Leeds yesterday.

Stephen Hinchliffe, former Facia chairman, did not attend on advice from his lawyer, Christopher Harrison, the former finance director, did attend and chaired the meeting. However, he declined to answer questions.

Around 40 Facia creditors attended the meeting at which BDO Stoy Hayward was appointed liquidator. This was the choice of Sears, whose footwear businesses are a big creditor of the Facia group.

Stoy Hayward was appointed liquidator of Facia and all its subsidiaries including, Contessa, Sock Shop, Oakland Menswear, Red or Dead, Oakland Menswear, Torq Fashion, Salisbury's and Dovetail cabinmakers.

Carlton buys stake in photo archive

Matthew Horsman
Media Editor

Carlton Communications, Michael Green's media group, agreed to spend £17.5m for a 10 per cent stake in Getty Communications, a leading provider of archive and still photo images for businesses.

The deal will give Carlton the option of taking an additional 10 per cent stake within two years, and was said by the company to be "strategic".

The two companies intend to co-operate in a range of activities, including the marketing by Getty of Carlton's own content. Carlton is a leader in video processing, post-production and editing.

Getty Communications was set up in 1993 by Mark Getty, scion of the wealthy US family, and his partner Jonathan Klein. The company took control of Tony Stone Images, the market leader in contemporary stock footage, and thereafter built up operations in archive photography and stock film footage.

The last few years, the world has moved from being technology crazy to being content crazy," Mr Klein said yesterday. "New media has a huge need for imagery, and that is what we supply."

Mr Green, who first met Mr Klein 12 years ago, will join the Getty Communications board.

Getty's controlling shareholder, Getty Investments, will subscribe for additional shares in the company to retain its interest. Together with the Carlton investment, Getty Communications will have more than £40m to invest in acquisitions, Mr Klein said.

"There are thousands of companies with good products, but no marketing or management skills," he added.

IN BRIEF

- Hoechst is spinning off its specialty chemicals business to Clariant of Switzerland, creating a specialty chemicals company with annual sales of about Dm6bn (£3.5bn). The move, which will leave Hoechst with a 45 per cent stake in the enlarged Clariant, is designed to cut costs. Clariant, spun off by Sandoz last year, said it would win critical mass to better compete worldwide. The transaction comes amid a slew of mergers and divestments in the global chemicals and pharmaceuticals industry as companies try to squeeze operating costs.

- Grand Metropolitan has served a writ on Asda claiming some of the supermarket's own brand spirits could be mistaken for GrandMet brands. GrandMet alleges that four of Asda's own brands - Daniel Boone's Deep South, Asda Peach Schnapps and Windward - could be mistaken for GrandMet's branded equivalent. Asda said it would defend itself against the allegations and said there was no case to answer. "We invite everyone to put Asda brands to the test. We're confident that they will agree these are 'taste-a-like' and not 'look-a-like' products."

- Sage, the accountancy software group, said pre-tax profits for the year to September rose to £30.1m from £22.4m, lower than analysts' forecasts.

- Property group British Land reported a 35 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £34.3m in the six months to September, at the top of brokers' estimates. "The prospects for the areas where we are invested continue to improve," said chairman John Ribble. "I view the second half with confidence in a competitive though still volatile property market."

- NatWest is planning to launch a credit card in 1997 which will operate on the American Express network. The move is part of a strategic alliance announced by the two companies yesterday. NatWest declined to offer further details about the products. The deal is a break-through for Amex as Visa had been trying to frustrate efforts by banks to link up with Amex.

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Cellphones

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- Up to 30 hrs standby-time
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- Lithium ion battery
- Fast recharge
- Super slim design
- Weight 165g

NOKIA

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- Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time
- Up to 100 hrs standby-time
- Up to 200 name/number memory stored on SIM
- NiMH battery and fast travel charger
- Fast recharge - 55 mins
- Weight 250g

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Chubb locked into flat markets

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Chubb Security had a brief moment of glory after being demerged from Sir Ernest Harrison's Racal Electronics empire in 1992. Shares in the locks to electronic security group soared on hopes for a four-year revitalisation programme, but after an initial cost-cutting drive it became clear that Chubb would not emulate the success of Vodafone, another of Sir Ernest's "babies". A year ago, the group announced plans to step up its expansion through an acquisition and investment programme, but disappointing figures yesterday suggest the group still has to convince the City of its growth prospects.

Pre-tax profits edged up just under 4 per cent to £46.1m on turnover up eight higher at £427m in the six months to 11 October. But despite a 10 per cent uplift in the interim dividend, the shares sank 9.5p to 32.1p. The main drag on growth was in the traditional locks and safes to fire protection physical security division, which saw profits sink from £21.5m to £20.8m. Europe alone accounted for more than the total shortfall, with the 1.5m fall there split equally among locks, fire protection and safes.

South African locks and fire protection have also proved problematic, hitting results from businesses outside Europe, the US and Australia. Chubb does not see much recovery over last year in the second half in Africa.

Looking further out, Chubb has work to do after having sunk £182m into the business over the past 12 months. Most went on two Australian acquisitions: the £72m purchase of MSS Security in June and James Hardie Industries, picked up last week for £107m. A £2.5m restructuring programme means the former is on course to make a £1m loss this year, while shaking up Hardie and financing costs will lead to earnings dilution of around £2m in 1996-97. It will be next year and the year after before both start to really contribute to the bottom line.

But that said, Chubb's strategy in unexciting markets remains credible. Electronic security continues its solid performance, recording organic growth of 10 per cent in a market increasing at 4-6 per cent a year, while the figures from physical security were respectable, given 2 per cent or so world-wide growth and nothing at all in Europe. Hardie will strengthen Chubb in a number of areas, roughly doubling its market share in access control and fire detection and taking it to 19 per cent in the £1.2bn fire protection market.

But with brokers knocking £3m off

forecasts for this year and next, it will remain a hard slog for Chubb. Full-year profits of £100m, followed by £115m, would put the shares on a forward multiple of 15, falling to 13. Fairly valued.

Berkeley stays a step ahead

Tony Pidgley, chief executive of up-market housebuilder Berkeley, has built up a deserved reputation for always being one step ahead of the rest of the pack.

He famously wept liquid at the top of the housing market boom in 1988. During the subsequent recession Berkeley alone among housebuilders kept profits and earnings moving forward.

More recently, Mr Pidgley has touted the virtues of city centre living while rivals vie with each other to pay fancy prices for volume greenfield developments.

His latest idea was to plan ahead for the general election. Mr Pidgley as-

sumes housebuyers will, in effect, go on strike in the run-up to polling day, equivalent to £60m of Berkeley's sales.

In response, Mr Pidgley brought forward sales into the first half by beefing up Berkeley's marketing effort. This included spending about £500,000 on mock show homes, which are dismantled later once the transaction is completed.

The benefits of this forward planning are there for all to see. Pre-tax profits rose by 58 per cent to a better-than-expected £30.1m on sales up from £146m to £203m in the six months to October.

Earnings per share increased by a third to 21.1p while an interim dividend of 2.5p (2.2p) was declared.

Unit sales rose from 702 to 946 while the average selling price of a house was

£196,000 (£196,000). Berkeley has benefited more than most from its emphasis on executive homes in London and the South-east. But more than half of sales in the first half were outside the Capital where the first signs of a pick-up in prices is now being detected.

The strong performance at the in-

ternational stage has laid the foundations for another set of robust full-year results and brokers were busy upgrading their profit forecasts on these figures. NatWest raised its 1997 estimates by £4.5m to £59m, and by £4m to £65m for 1998.

That puts the shares up 21p to 63.25p, on a price/earnings ratio of 15 falling to less than 14, making them a firm hold.

Allders finds a new focus

The sale of Allders' duty-free arm has transformed the business into a focused UK department store group, financially secure but, let's face it, not the most exciting investment proposition. The group has 30 stores, mainly town centre, in locations ranging from the pretty good to the uninspiring.

If that is not true, it is certainly the market's perception, and the shares at 146p trade at less than half the level they reached briefly in May. New management won plaudits for giving most of the duty-free sale proceeds straight to shareholders, but it plainly has an uphill struggle ahead to restore confidence in its ability to cash in on the current consumer boom.

All that is at odds with full-year figures which showed a dramatic upturn in fortunes in the second half. Overall like-for-like sales growth of 7 per cent during the year was 16 per cent in the latter six months and some areas are growing even faster.

The good news looks likely to continue in the current year with sales figures for the nine weeks since the year-end running 14 per cent ahead on a like-for-like basis. Allders reckons that puts it ahead of John Lewis and it is certainly an impressive rate.

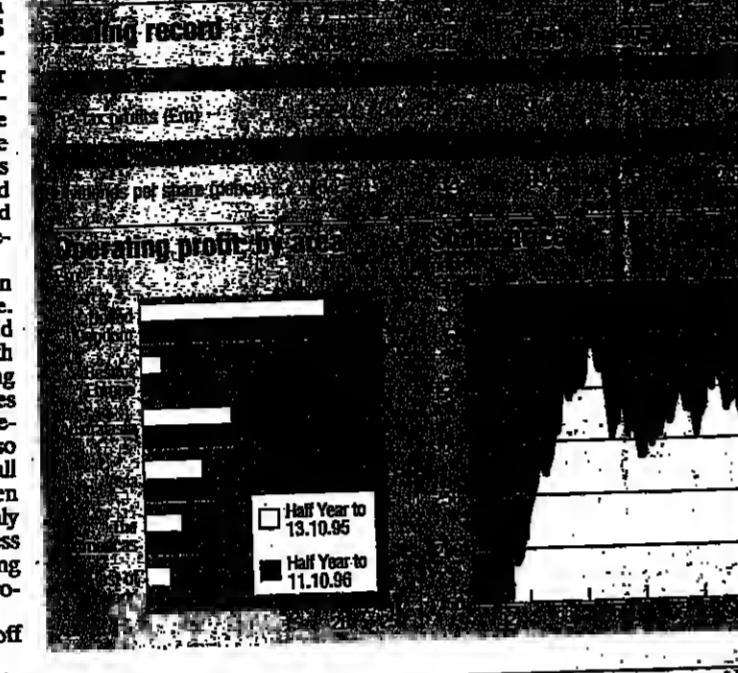
Reported profits of £40.4m (£23.5m) were distorted by a £3.2m profit on the disposal of Allders International, the duty-free business Swissair picked up for £160m earlier in the year but the underlying picture is of strong growth.

The final dividend of 3.7p made a basic total for the year of 6.1p, and a special payout of 46p from the duty-free proceeds brought the total to 52.1p.

On the basis of forecast profits of £21m this year, and an expected 25 per cent tax charge, the shares trade on a prospective p/e ratio of 10, a stinging rating for a company with plenty of scope to grow profits at its recent Owen Owen store acquisitions and the shares are good value.

Perhaps a glass or two of wine helped but the Chan-

Chubb Security : at a glance



Gem trade can't hold a candle to waxing lyrical

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Designs: Neville Buch, formerly of Blenheim, joins BBB

founder Philip O'Donnell splits the chairman and chief executive roles.

Mr Buch yesterday acquired a near-6 per cent stake in BBB and will push that to nearly 30 per cent next week when he buys shares from Mr O'Donnell. The pair know each other well. Blechein and BBB were almost merged eight years ago and Mr Buch's Holland Park pad is around the corner from BBB's Bayswater head office.

"We known Neville ever since I took BBB public 10 years ago. He's been very successful and I'm sure his talents will help us."

Dairy group Unigate will receive some political assistance. It has appointed John MacGregor, the former secretary of state for transport, as a non-executive director. However, it is Mr Mac

Gregor's previous position as minister for agriculture, fisheries and foods which is likely to prove more useful. Unigate's chief executive Ross Buckland has been banging on about Milk Marketing's pricing policies for ages. Mr MacGregor's lobbying skills will no doubt come in handy.

Nigel Cope

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

TOP FIFTY LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 1 DECEMBER

| TEAM | POINTS |
|------------------------------|--------|
| 1. MR S A SCOTT | 467 |
| 2. MR PAUL RICHARDSON | 465 |
| 3. MR DAVID ROBINSON | 458 |
| 4. MR DARREN GREEN | 454 |
| 5. MR IAN BOYLE | 454 |
| 6. MR NICK KNIGHT | 451 |
| 7. MR PAUL HOOKER | 451 |
| 8. KEITH WATSON | 450 |
| 9. MR C NOBLE | 450 |
| 10. MR DAVID ASHTON | 449 |
| 11. MR D J ROBINSON | 449 |
| 12. MR SIMON DRAPER | 448 |
| 13. MR STEVEN WILSON | 447 |
| 14. MR J LIPSETT | 446 |
| 15. MR G MURPHY | 446 |
| 16. MR S WOOLLEY | 446 |
| 17. MR R NORTHCROFT | 446 |
| 18. MR G LAKE | 445 |
| 19. MR SCOTT MCINNERNY | 445 |
| 20. MR BARRY LEE | 445 |
| 21. MR STUART BROADWAY | 444 |
| 22. STEVE PATINE | 444 |
| 23. MR S WALLS | 442 |
| 24. MR JONATHAN FURNESS | 442 |
| 25. MR STEVEN THORNE | 442 |
| 26. MR ALEXANDRA FREEST | 442 |
| ZORO STRATIAN ZYNETICZ ZYGRY | 442 |

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

LEAGUE TABLES AND TOP 50 TEAMS

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

TOP 50 LEAGUE TABLE

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 1 DECEMBER WEEK 17 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 12 - 18 DECEMBER

| CODE | PLAYER | TEAM | POINTS | WEEK 17 | WEEK 18 | WEEK 19 | WEEK 20 | WEEK 21 | WEEK 22 | WEEK 23 | WEEK 24 | WEEK 25 | WEEK 26 | WEEK 27 | WEEK 28 | WEEK 29 | WEEK 30 | WEEK 31 | WEEK 32 | WEEK 33 | WEEK 34 | WEEK 35 | WEEK 36 | WEEK 37 | WEEK 38 | WEEK 39 | WEEK 40 | WEEK 41 | WEEK 42 | WEEK 43 | WEEK 44 | WEEK 45 | WEEK 46 | WEEK 47 | WEEK 48 | WEEK 49 | WEEK 50 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| GOALKEEPERS | CODE | PLAYER | POINTS | WEEK 17 | WEEK 18 | WEEK 19 | WEEK 20 | WEEK 21 | WEEK 22 | WEEK 23 | WEEK 24 | WEEK 25 | WEEK 26 | WEEK 27 | WEEK 28 | WEEK 29 | WEEK 30 | WEEK 31 | WEEK 32 | WEEK 33 | WEEK 34 | WEEK 35 | WEEK 36 | WEEK 37 | WEEK 38 | WEEK 39 | WEEK 40 | WEEK 41 | WEEK 42 | WEEK 43 | WEEK 44 | WEEK 45 | WEEK 46 | WEEK 47 | WEEK 48 | WEEK 49 | WEEK 50 |
| DEFENDERS | CODE | PLAYER | POINTS | WEEK 17 | WEEK 18 | WEEK 19 | WEEK 20 | WEEK 21 | WEEK 22 | WEEK 23 | WEEK 24 | WEEK 25 | WEEK 26 | WEEK 27 | WEEK 28 | WEEK 29 | WEEK 30 | WEEK 31 | WEEK 32 | WEEK 33 | WEEK 34 | WEEK 35 | WEEK 36 | WEEK 37 | WEEK 38 | WEEK 39 | WEEK 40 | WEEK 41 | WEEK 42 | WEEK 43 | WEEK 44 | WEEK 45 | WEEK 46 | WEEK 47 | WEEK 48 | WEEK 49 | WEEK 50 |

PHILIPS ENERGY Saver LIGHT BULBS

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

PRIZES

The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions as previously published and are available upon request.

PHILIPS

Let's make things better

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 8 DECEMBER WEEK 17 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 12 - 8 DECEMBER

| CODE | PLAYER | TEAM | POINTS | WEEK 17 | WEEK 18 | WEEK 19 | WEEK 20 | WEEK 21 | WEEK 22 | WEEK 23 | WEEK 24 | WEEK 25 | WEEK 26 | WEEK 27 | WEEK 28 | WEEK 29 | WEEK 30 | WEEK 31 | WEEK 32 | WEEK 33 | WEEK 34 | WEEK 35 | WEEK 36 | WEEK 37 | WEEK 38 | WEEK 39 | WEEK 40 | WEEK 41 | WEEK 42 | WEEK 43 | WEEK 44 | WEEK 45 | WEEK 46 | WEEK 47 | WEEK 48 | WEEK 49 | WEEK 50 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| GOALKEEPERS | CODE | PLAYER | POINTS | WEEK 17 | WEEK 18 | WEEK 19 | WEEK 20 | WEEK 21 | WEEK 22 | WEEK 23 | WEEK 24 | WEEK 25 | WEEK 26 | WEEK 27 | WEEK 28 | WEEK 29 | WEEK 30 | WEEK 31 | WEEK 32 | WEEK 33 | WEEK 34 | WEEK 35 | WEEK 36 | WEEK 37 | WEEK 38 | WEEK 39 | WEEK 40 | WEEK 41 | WEEK 42 | WEEK 43 | WEEK 44 | WEEK 45 | WEEK 46 | WEEK 47 | WEEK 48 | WEEK 49 | WEEK 50 |
| DEFENDERS | CODE | PLAYER | POINTS | WEEK 17 | WEEK 18 | WEEK 19 | WEEK 20 | WEEK 21 | WEEK 22 | WEEK 23 | WEEK 24 | WEEK 25 | WEEK 26 | WEEK 27 | WEEK 28 | WEEK 29 | WEEK 30 | WEEK 31 | WEEK 32 | WEEK 33 | WEEK 34 | WEEK 35 | WEEK 36 | WEEK 37 | WEEK 38 | WEEK 39 | WEEK 40 | WEEK 41 | WEEK 42 | WEEK 43 | WEEK 44 | WEEK 45 | WEEK 46 | WEEK 47 | WEEK 48 | WEEK 49 | WEEK 50 |

PHILIPS ENERGY Saver LIGHT BULBS

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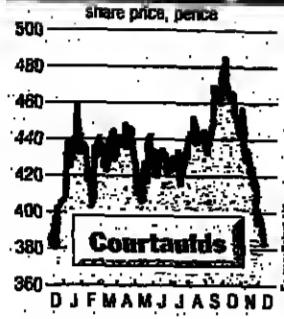
JOY TO THE WORLD

market report / shares

Data Bank

| FTSE 100 | 4035.7 + 24.1 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| FTSE 250 | 4411.9 + 26.9 |
| FTSE 350 | 2003.9 + 12.1 |
| SEAQ VOLUME | 860m shares, |
| | 37,504 bargains |
| Gilt Index | 95.05 + 0.35 |

Share spotlight



It's goodbye to old-timers Courtaulds and Pilkington

Taking Stock

It's goodbye to Courtaulds, the chemical group, and Pilkington of glass fame. The two proud names of British industry will almost certainly today be given their marching orders from the prestigious Footsie blue chip share index.

Their shares are bumping along near their 12-month lows. Courtaulds' stock market valuation has fallen to around £1.6bn and Pilks is nearer £1.5bn.

As Guy Fisher at Natwest Securities points out they have been overtaken by Hays, the business services group, and Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager split from SBC Warburg in the summer of last year. The two likely newcomers are each capitalised at about £2.3bn.

Courtaulds and Pilks have looked vulnerable for some time. In the past few months Courtaulds has slumped from 487.5p to 384p, off 4.5p yes-

terday. Pilks' fall from grace has been rather more gentle, with the shares coming down from 272p early this year to 148p, off 2p.

Interim figures devastated Courtaulds. Profits fell £4m to £64m, prompting estimates for this year and next to cut by 20 per cent. The group's massive investment in wonder fibre, Tencel, is beginning to pay off but other parts of the business are struggling.

Pilks has been the subject of a two-way analysts' pull for much of the year. A slump in half-year profits and the group's discomfort as glass prices have continued to crack has given victory to the bears.

Hays gained 2p to a 542p peak and MAM, where takeover rumours linger, 2p to 1,238.5p, a few coppers from

272p. The rest of the market enjoyed a busy session with Footsie, up 24.1 points to 4,035.7,

offering enough encouragement to revive hopes of more record-breaking performances. Government stocks rose by nearly 1%.

The market drew support from expectations today's Ken and Eddie meeting will leave interest rates unchanged and further progress in New York. Housebuilders were helped higher by the Berkeley results and oil shrigged off the long awaited Iraqi oil-for-food deal with Lasmo, the best performing blue chip, up 6p to 272p.

RJB Mining was the day's big casualty, crashing 112.5p to 372.5p as house broker Barclays de Zoete Wedd cut its profit forecasts for this year and next.

Other old bid stories were given further whirs. Abbey National rose 17.5p to 708.5p on the Prudential Corporation link-up story and RAT Industries rose 11.5p to 488p in busy

profit forecasts at present.

Guinness weakened 9p to 435p with LVMH share sales returns again in the air and Grand Metropolitan lost 6p to 437.5p after stories resurfaced it was about to strike at Bolswessan, the Dutch food and drink group. "Mysterious" and "purely speculative" was Grandmet's response. It added: "A big acquisition is totally off the agenda at present."

Other old bid stories were given further whirs. Abbey National rose 17.5p to 708.5p on the Prudential Corporation link-up story and RAT Industries rose 11.5p to 488p in busy

trading on continuing speculation about a financial services deal.

Pearson, ahead of a meeting with analysts and hopes of a revamp being announced next month, improved 13.5p to 720p and Bass put on a further 11.5p to 315p on its proposed US hotel sales.

Glymed International, the engineer, fell 9p to 336p; Warburg moved from buy to hold.

Imperial Tobacco was pulled 9p higher to 378.5p on talk of an unsatisfied buyer in the market for 2.5 million shares.

Cardinal Business, earmarked as Alan Baldwin's comeback vehicle after his Seacor Guard group was taken over by Rentokil Initial, rose 1p to 13p as Mr Baldwin, chairman and chief executive, and director Paul Baldwin quit.

Veteran Nat Solomon takes over as non-executive chairman. The Baldwins will each receive £200,000 compensation funded partly by new shareholders.

Newcomer Parkwood, the business services group, closed at 75.5p against a 6.5p placing.

Real Time Control, the computer group, jumped 5p to 240p following a 56 per cent profit advance but Alba, the television and video concern, fell 4p to 225p on its 35 per cent profits setback.

BBB Design rose 13p to 43p; Neville Bush of Blenheim Exhibitions fame is to become chairman and has picked up 5.7 per cent and agreed to move to 29.6 per cent.

Wiggins, the property group marked as Alan Baldwin's comeback vehicle after his Seacor Guard group was taken over by Rentokil Initial, rose 1p to 13p as Mr Baldwin, chairman and chief executive, and director Paul Baldwin quit.

Great Western Resources, the US oil and gas explorer, flared 4p to 19.5p.

First-time dealings in two newcomers, due today, have been postponed until Friday for contrasting reasons.

Oxford Biomedica lost two of its four underwriters at the last moment and cut its flotation to 10 per cent of its capital from 22 per cent. It is now raising £5m against ambitions of £11m.

Yeoman, a hi-tech group, delayed because of a late rush of private investors. Stockbroker Bell Lawrie White sought the postponement so it could accommodate the late comers.

Deltron Electronics held at 150p. It has signed a contract with Mitsubishi of Japan for filter solutions which is worth up to £1m a year. When it floated in September Deltron forecast profits of £2.59m on £25m turnover. Results are due in January.

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year



DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

| Category | Stock | Price | Chg | Vol | Yld | PCF |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-----|------|
| Alcoholic Beverages | ABV | 110.0 | -0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Banks, Merchant | ABA | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Banks, Retail | ABN | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Breweries, Pubs & Restaurants | BRW | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Building/Construction | BCL | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Chemicals | CHL | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Distributors | DIS | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Engineering | ENG | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Electronics | ELC | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Extrusive Industries | EXI | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Diversified Industrials | DXD | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Food Manufacturers | FDM | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Franchises | FRN | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Gas Utilities | GLS | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Health Care | HCL | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Household Goods | HGD | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Investment Trusts | ITL | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Leisure & Hotels | LHD | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Longs | LNG | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Materials | MAT | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Media | MED | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Minerals | MNL | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Oil, Exploration | OIL | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Oil, Integrated | OIL | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Other Financial | OFI | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Pharmaceuticals | PHM | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Retailers, General | RGL | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Retailers, Food | RFD | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Telecommunications | TEL | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Textiles & Apparel | TEX | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Tobaccos | TBL | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Transport | TRP | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Utilities | ULI | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Rights Issues | RIS | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Recent Issues | RIC | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |

Government Securities

| Index-linked | Stock | Price | Chg | Vol | Yld | PCF |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-----|------|
| Shorts | TSX | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Mediums | MSX | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |
| Longs | LSX | 100.0 | +0.5 | 1,000 | 4.0 | 12.0 |

Foreign Exchange Rate

| Foreign Exchange Rates | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------|--------|------|--------------|--------|--------|------|------------------|--------|--------|------|--------------|--------|
| STERLING | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Stock | Sell | Buy | Yld | Stock | Sell | Buy | Yld | Stock | Sell | Buy | Yld | DOLLAR | |
| 000 | Mutual Fund | \$0.07 | \$0.07 | 0.00 | High Income | \$0.07 | \$0.07 | 0.00 | UK Spec. Inv Acc | \$0.75 | \$0.81 | 0.00 | Spot | 0.436 |
| 001 | Money Market | 0.045 | 0.045 | 0.00 | (Acces) Unit | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Spec. Inv Acc | 1.01 | 1.01 | 0.00 | 1 month | 0.4372 |
| 002 | Mutual Fund/Pension Unit | 0.045 | 0.045 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | South Africa Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | 3 months | 0.4372 |
| 003 | British | 1455 | 1455 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | South Africa Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | US | 0.436 |
| 004 | European Growth | 1415 | 1415 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | South Africa Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Canada | 0.436 |
| 005 | Gilt & Fixed | 1314 | 1314 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | South Africa Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Germany | 0.436 |
| 006 | Income | 1062 | 1062 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | France | 0.436 |
| 007 | Japan Growth | 1443 | 1443 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Ireland | 0.436 |
| 008 | Managed | 1470 | 1470 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Italy | 0.436 |
| 009 | Money Market | 1428 | 1428 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Japan | 0.436 |
| 010 | North America | 1333 | 1333 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | ECU | 0.436 |
| 011 | Mutual Fund/Pension Unit | 1401 | 1401 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Belgium | 0.436 |
| 012 | British | 1341 | 1341 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Denmark | 0.436 |
| 013 | European Growth | 1315 | 1315 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Netherlands | 0.436 |
| 014 | Gilt & Fixed | 1377 | 1377 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Ireland | 0.436 |
| 015 | Income | 1361 | 1361 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Asia | 0.436 |
| 016 | Japan Growth | 1422 | 1422 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Australia | 0.436 |
| 017 | Managed | 1392 | 1392 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Switzerland | 0.436 |
| 018 | Money Market | 1375 | 1375 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Australia | 0.436 |
| 019 | North America | 1325 | 1325 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Hong Kong | 0.436 |
| 020 | Asian | 1317 | 1317 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Malaysia | 0.436 |
| 021 | European Growth | 1315 | 1315 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | New Zealand | 0.436 |
| 022 | Income | 1388 | 1388 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Saudi Arabia | 0.436 |
| 023 | Japan Growth | 1423 | 1423 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | Singapore | 0.436 |
| 024 | Managed | 1401 | 1401 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 025 | Money Market | 1365 | 1365 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 026 | North American | 1320 | 1320 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 027 | Mutual Fund/Unit Trust | 1450 | 1450 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 028 | American Gilt | 1451 | 1451 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 029 | European Gilt Inc. | 1316 | 1316 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 030 | European Gilt Acc | 1373 | 1373 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 031 | Gilt & Fixed | 1317 | 1317 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 032 | Income | 1375 | 1375 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 033 | Japan Growth | 1423 | 1423 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 034 | Managed | 1401 | 1401 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 035 | Money Market | 1365 | 1365 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 036 | North American | 1320 | 1320 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 037 | Mutual Fund | 1450 | 1450 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 038 | American Gilt | 1451 | 1451 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 039 | European Gilt Inc. | 1316 | 1316 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 040 | European Gilt Acc | 1373 | 1373 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 041 | Gilt & Fixed | 1317 | 1317 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 042 | Income | 1375 | 1375 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 043 | Japan Growth | 1423 | 1423 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 044 | Managed | 1401 | 1401 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 045 | Money Market | 1365 | 1365 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 046 | North American | 1320 | 1320 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 047 | Mutual Fund | 1450 | 1450 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 048 | American Gilt | 1451 | 1451 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 049 | European Gilt Inc. | 1316 | 1316 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 050 | European Gilt Acc | 1373 | 1373 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 051 | Gilt & Fixed | 1317 | 1317 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 052 | Income | 1375 | 1375 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 053 | Japan Growth | 1423 | 1423 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 054 | Managed | 1401 | 1401 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 055 | Money Market | 1365 | 1365 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 056 | North American | 1320 | 1320 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 057 | Mutual Fund | 1450 | 1450 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 058 | American Gilt | 1451 | 1451 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 059 | European Gilt Inc. | 1316 | 1316 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 060 | European Gilt Acc | 1373 | 1373 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 061 | Gilt & Fixed | 1317 | 1317 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 062 | Income | 1375 | 1375 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 063 | Japan Growth | 1423 | 1423 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 064 | Managed | 1401 | 1401 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 065 | Money Market | 1365 | 1365 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 066 | North American | 1320 | 1320 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 067 | Mutual Fund | 1450 | 1450 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 068 | American Gilt | 1451 | 1451 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 069 | European Gilt Inc. | 1316 | 1316 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 070 | European Gilt Acc | 1373 | 1373 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 071 | Gilt & Fixed | 1317 | 1317 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 072 | Income | 1375 | 1375 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 073 | Japan Growth | 1423 | 1423 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 074 | Managed | 1401 | 1401 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 075 | Money Market | 1365 | 1365 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 076 | North American | 1320 | 1320 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 077 | Mutual Fund | 1450 | 1450 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 078 | American Gilt | 1451 | 1451 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 079 | European Gilt Inc. | 1316 | 1316 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 080 | European Gilt Acc | 1373 | 1373 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 081 | Gilt & Fixed | 1317 | 1317 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 082 | Income | 1375 | 1375 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 083 | Japan Growth | 1423 | 1423 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 084 | Managed | 1401 | 1401 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 085 | Money Market | 1365 | 1365 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 086 | North American | 1320 | 1320 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 087 | Mutual Fund | 1450 | 1450 | 0.00 | High Yield | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | UK Govt. Cns Acc | 1.04 | 1.04 | 0.00 | | |
| 088 | American Gilt | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Tourist Rate

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|------|------|---------------------|------|-----------|--|--|--------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 482 | Americas Reserve Inc | 7526 | 2526 | PA European | 4804 | 44480-517 | | | E Buys | | t Buys | | t Buys | |
| 483 | Americas Growth | 7526 | 2526 | PA American Smk Cos | 4804 | 6764-693 | | | Australia(Dollar) | 20000 | France(France) | 24300 | New Zealand(Dollar) | 2-711 |
| 484 | BioS Chip | 5525 | 5525 | PA Asia | 4804 | 549-578 | | | Austria(Schilling) | 176000 | Germany(Mark) | 25025 | Norway(Krone) | 12400 |
| 485 | BioS Income | 5525 | 5525 | PA Japanese Smk Cos | 4804 | 528-557 | | | Belgium(France) | 650000 | Greece(Drachma) | 302000 | Portugal(Escudo) | 25175 |
| 486 | European | 5525 | 5525 | PA Amer Preferred | 4804 | 602-620 | | | Canada(Dollar) | 23000 | Hong Kong(Dollar) | 12-1800 | Spain(Peseta) | 20000 |
| 487 | Global Bond | 4121 | 4121 | UK Major Cos | 5175 | 3269 | | | Cyprus(Pound) | 0.7525 | Iceland(Punk) | 0.9675 | Sweden(Krona) | 11600 |
| 488 | Japan Growth | 5726 | 4372 | UK Smaller Cos | 5227 | 2243 | | | UK Equity Gen Acc | 5217 | Italy(Lira) | 348000 | Switzerland(Franc) | 2105 |
| 489 | Pacific Growth | 2470 | 2470 | UK Income | 5228 | 5420 | | | UK Equity Gen Inc | 5142 | Japan(Yen) | 1650000 | Turkey(Lira) | 1320-1400 |
| 490 | Small Cos | 5047 | 5047 | UK Smaller Cos | 5229 | 5421 | | | UK Eq High Inc | 5158 | Malta(Lira) | 0.5225 | United States(Dollar) | 1674 |
| 491 | Small Cos | 7526 | 5047 | America | 5126 | 5427 | | | UK Eq High Inc | 5153 | Malta(Mkt) | | | |
| 492 | Small Cos | 7526 | 5047 | Asia | 5126 | 5427 | | | UK Govt Gen Acc | 5217 | Malta(Pound) | | | |
| 493 | Small Cos | 7526 | 5047 | Europe | 5126 | 5427 | | | UK Govt Gen Inc | 5142 | Malta(Punk) | | | |
| 494 | Small Cos | 7526 | 5047 | Emerging | 5124 | 5427 | | | UK Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yen) | | | |
| 495 | Small Cos | 7526 | 5047 | Global | 5127 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 496 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Corporate | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 497 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Management | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 498 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Major Cos | 5228 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 499 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Smaller Cos | 5229 | 5421 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 500 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Income | 5227 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 501 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | America | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 502 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Asia | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 503 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Europe | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 504 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Emerging | 5124 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 505 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Global | 5127 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 506 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Corporate | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 507 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Management | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 508 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Major Cos | 5228 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 509 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Smaller Cos | 5229 | 5421 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 510 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Income | 5227 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 511 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | America | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 512 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Asia | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 513 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Europe | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 514 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Emerging | 5124 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 515 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Global | 5127 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 516 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Corporate | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 517 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Management | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 518 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Major Cos | 5228 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 519 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Smaller Cos | 5229 | 5421 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 520 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Income | 5227 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 521 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | America | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 522 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Asia | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 523 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Europe | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 524 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Emerging | 5124 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 525 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Global | 5127 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 526 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Corporate | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 527 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Management | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 528 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Major Cos | 5228 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 529 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Smaller Cos | 5229 | 5421 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 530 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Income | 5227 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 531 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | America | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 532 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Asia | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 533 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Europe | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 534 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Emerging | 5124 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 535 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Global | 5127 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 536 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Corporate | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 537 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Management | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 538 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Major Cos | 5228 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 539 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Smaller Cos | 5229 | 5421 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 540 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Income | 5227 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 541 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | America | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 542 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Asia | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 543 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Europe | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 544 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Emerging | 5124 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 545 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Global | 5127 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 546 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Corporate | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 547 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Management | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 548 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Major Cos | 5228 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 549 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Smaller Cos | 5229 | 5421 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 550 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Income | 5227 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 551 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | America | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 552 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Asia | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 553 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Europe | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 554 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Emerging | 5124 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 555 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Global | 5127 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 556 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Corporate | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 557 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Management | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 558 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Major Cos | 5228 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 559 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Smaller Cos | 5229 | 5421 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 560 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Income | 5227 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 561 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | America | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 562 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Asia | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 563 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Europe | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 564 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Emerging | 5124 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 565 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Global | 5127 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 566 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Corporate | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 567 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Management | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 568 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Major Cos | 5228 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 569 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Smaller Cos | 5229 | 5421 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 570 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Income | 5227 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 571 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | America | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 572 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Asia | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 573 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Europe | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 574 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Emerging | 5124 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 575 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Global | 5127 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 576 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Corporate | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 577 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Management | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 578 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Major Cos | 5228 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 579 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Smaller Cos | 5229 | 5421 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 580 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Income | 5227 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 581 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | America | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 582 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Asia | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 583 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Europe | 5126 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 584 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Emerging | 5124 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 585 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Global | 5127 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 586 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Corporate | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 587 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | Management | 5126 | 5424 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 588 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Major Cos | 5228 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 589 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Smaller Cos | 5229 | 5421 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 590 | Small Cos | 5227 | 5227 | UK Income | 5227 | 5427 | | | USA Inv Fund Inc | 5142 | Malta(Yuan) | | | |
| 591 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Interest Rate

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|--------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------|----------|---------------------------|-----------------|------|-------|--------------|---------|-------|
| 226 | NPI Higher Income | 2022 | 2612.427 | UK Major Cos | 1238 | 94.7% | 41 Charles G. Shultz Fund | | UK | 5.75% | Japan | 8.75% | |
| 227 | NPI High Yield Cos | 2022 | 2612.427 | UK Smaller Cos. | 1062 | 94.7% | Admiral Fund | 6055 | 5564 | 6.00% | Discount | 0.50% | |
| 228 | NPI Intermediate | 7739 | 357 | 42.4 | UK Income | 1062 | 94.7% | Aviva Fund | 6055 | 5564 | 6.00% | Belgium | 2.50% |
| 229 | NPI International | | | America Fund | 1062 | 94.7% | Baird United | 6057 | 5564 | 6.00% | Canada | 3.25% | |
| 230 | NPI International Managed | | | Asian Fund | 1062 | 94.7% | Barclays United | 6057 | 5564 | 6.00% | Fed Funds | 3.25% | |
| 231 | NPI Americas Acc | 1473 | 567.008 | Europe Fund | 1062 | 94.7% | Access United | 2044 | 2082 | 2.25% | Intervention | 3.20% | |
| 232 | NPI Americas Dis | 2450 | 1447.008 | Global Fund | 1062 | 94.7% | Emerging Markets | 2044 | 2082 | 2.25% | Italy | 4.75% | |
| 233 | NPI European Acc | 1543 | 563.027 | Corporate Fund | 1062 | 94.7% | Focus United | 5046 | 5203 | 0.75% | Prime | 5.00% | |
| 234 | NPI European Dis | 2453 | 932.027 | Mutualized Fund | 1062 | 94.7% | Euro Smaller Co. | 5046 | 5203 | 0.75% | Discount | 5.00% | |
| 235 | NPI For Sent Acc | 1821 | 2044.000 | Managed Fund | 1062 | 94.7% | Focus United | 5047 | 5207 | 0.75% | 10-Day Repo | 6.75% | |
| 236 | NPI For Sent Dis | 1823 | 2050.000 | Royal Life Prod Managed | 1238 | 94.7% | Focus United | 5048 | 5208 | 0.75% | Discount | 6.75% | |
| 237 | NPI Global Fund Acc | 1621 | 2612.000 | United States Fund | 1062 | 94.7% | Focus United | 5048 | 5208 | 0.75% | Denmark | 7.00% | |
| 238 | NPI Global Fund Dis | 1623 | 2612.000 | United States Fund | 1062 | 94.7% | Focus United | 5049 | 5209 | 0.75% | Sweden | 7.00% | |
| 239 | NPI Growth Acc | 1504.3 | 5524.000 | Energy Growth Fund | 1062 | 94.7% | Focus United | 5050 | 5210 | 0.75% | Repo (Av) | 4.80% | |
| 240 | NPI Growth Dis | 1504.3 | 5524.000 | High Inc Accrust | 2110 | 2077.000 | Focus United | 5051 | 5211 | 0.75% | Lombard | 4.125% | |
| 241 | NPI Growth Fund | 1504.3 | 5524.000 | High Inc Dis | 2110 | 2077.000 | Focus United | 5052 | 5212 | 0.75% | | | |
| 242 | NPI UK Acc | 1621 | 5051.153 | High Inc Fund | 2110 | 2077.000 | Focus United | 5053 | 5213 | 0.75% | | | |
| 243 | NPI UK Dis | 1623 | 5051.153 | Ry Life Inv Crry | 1062 | 94.7% | Focus United | 5054 | 5214 | 0.75% | | | |
| 244 | NPI UK Entrs Inc Acc | 1523 | 2612.25 | Ry Life Inv Grows | 1062 | 94.7% | Focus United | 5055 | 5215 | 0.75% | | | |
| 245 | NPI UK Entrs Inc Dis | 1525 | 2612.25 | Ry Life Inv Indx | 7230 | 937.000 | Focus United | 5056 | 5216 | 0.75% | | | |
| 246 | NPI UK Inv Corp Acc | 1521 | 1483.000 | Ry Life Inv Invst | 7230 | 937.000 | Focus United | 5057 | 5217 | 0.75% | | | |
| 247 | NPI Worldwide Acc | 1519 | 5529.000 | Ry Life Inv Invst | 7230 | 937.000 | Focus United | 5058 | 5218 | 0.75% | | | |
| 248 | NPI Worldwide Dis | 1521 | 5529.000 | Ry Life Inv Invst | 7230 | 937.000 | Focus United | 5059 | 5219 | 0.75% | | | |
| 249 | NPI Worldwide Inv Acc | 1521 | 5529.000 | Ry Life Inv Invst | 7230 | 937.000 | Focus United | 5060 | 5220 | 0.75% | | | |
| 250 | NPI Worldwide Inv Dis | 1523 | 5529.000 | Ry Life Inv Invst | 7230 | 937.000 | Focus United | 5061 | 5221 | 0.75% | | | |
| 251 | MacPhail Unit Trust Mngs Ltd | | | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Magt Equity Acc | 2048 | 2059 | 0.75% | | | |
| 252 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Magt Equity Acc | 2049 | 2060 | 0.75% | | |
| 253 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Magt Cash | 5062 | 5261 | 0.75% | | | |
| 254 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5063 | 5262 | 0.75% | | | |
| 255 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5064 | 5263 | 0.75% | | | |
| 256 | For East Fund | | | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5065 | 5264 | 0.75% | | | |
| 257 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5066 | 5266 | 0.75% | | |
| 258 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5067 | 5267 | 0.75% | | | |
| 259 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5068 | 5268 | 0.75% | | | |
| 260 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5069 | 5269 | 0.75% | | | |
| 261 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5070 | 5270 | 0.75% | | | |
| 262 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5071 | 5271 | 0.75% | | |
| 263 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5072 | 5272 | 0.75% | | | |
| 264 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5073 | 5273 | 0.75% | | | |
| 265 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5074 | 5274 | 0.75% | | | |
| 266 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5075 | 5275 | 0.75% | | | |
| 267 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5076 | 5276 | 0.75% | | |
| 268 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5077 | 5277 | 0.75% | | | |
| 269 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5078 | 5278 | 0.75% | | | |
| 270 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5079 | 5279 | 0.75% | | | |
| 271 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5080 | 5280 | 0.75% | | | |
| 272 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5081 | 5281 | 0.75% | | |
| 273 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5082 | 5282 | 0.75% | | | |
| 274 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5083 | 5283 | 0.75% | | | |
| 275 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5084 | 5284 | 0.75% | | | |
| 276 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5085 | 5285 | 0.75% | | | |
| 277 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5086 | 5286 | 0.75% | | |
| 278 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5087 | 5287 | 0.75% | | | |
| 279 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5088 | 5288 | 0.75% | | | |
| 280 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5089 | 5289 | 0.75% | | | |
| 281 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5090 | 5290 | 0.75% | | | |
| 282 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5091 | 5291 | 0.75% | | |
| 283 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5092 | 5292 | 0.75% | | | |
| 284 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5093 | 5293 | 0.75% | | | |
| 285 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5094 | 5294 | 0.75% | | | |
| 286 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5095 | 5295 | 0.75% | | | |
| 287 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5096 | 5296 | 0.75% | | |
| 288 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5097 | 5297 | 0.75% | | | |
| 289 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5098 | 5298 | 0.75% | | | |
| 290 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5099 | 5299 | 0.75% | | | |
| 291 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5100 | 5300 | 0.75% | | | |
| 292 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5101 | 5301 | 0.75% | | |
| 293 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5102 | 5302 | 0.75% | | | |
| 294 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5103 | 5303 | 0.75% | | | |
| 295 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5104 | 5304 | 0.75% | | | |
| 296 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5105 | 5305 | 0.75% | | | |
| 297 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5106 | 5306 | 0.75% | | |
| 298 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5107 | 5307 | 0.75% | | | |
| 299 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5108 | 5308 | 0.75% | | | |
| 300 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5109 | 5309 | 0.75% | | | |
| 301 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5110 | 5310 | 0.75% | | | |
| 302 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5111 | 5311 | 0.75% | | |
| 303 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5112 | 5312 | 0.75% | | | |
| 304 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5113 | 5313 | 0.75% | | | |
| 305 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5114 | 5314 | 0.75% | | | |
| 306 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5115 | 5315 | 0.75% | | | |
| 307 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5116 | 5316 | 0.75% | | |
| 308 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5117 | 5317 | 0.75% | | | |
| 309 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5118 | 5318 | 0.75% | | | |
| 310 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5119 | 5319 | 0.75% | | | |
| 311 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5120 | 5320 | 0.75% | | | |
| 312 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5121 | 5321 | 0.75% | | |
| 313 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5122 | 5322 | 0.75% | | | |
| 314 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5123 | 5323 | 0.75% | | | |
| 315 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5124 | 5324 | 0.75% | | | |
| 316 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5125 | 5325 | 0.75% | | | |
| 317 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5126 | 5326 | 0.75% | | |
| 318 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5127 | 5327 | 0.75% | | | |
| 319 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5128 | 5328 | 0.75% | | | |
| 320 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5129 | 5329 | 0.75% | | | |
| 321 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5130 | 5330 | 0.75% | | | |
| 322 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5131 | 5331 | 0.75% | | |
| 323 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5132 | 5332 | 0.75% | | | |
| 324 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5133 | 5333 | 0.75% | | | |
| 325 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5134 | 5334 | 0.75% | | | |
| 326 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5135 | 5335 | 0.75% | | | |
| 327 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | American Growth | 2022 | 214 | 14 | Market United | 5136 | 5336 | 0.75% | | |
| 328 | For East Dis | 7428 | 7659.037 | European Growth | 1062 | 94.7% | Market United | 5137 | 5337 | 0.75% | | | |
| 329 | Europe Inv Acc | 8086 | 2546.270 | For East Growth | 1027 | 1027.027 | Market United | 5138 | 5338 | 0.75% | | | |
| 330 | Europe Acc | 8184 | 905.073 | Japan Growth | 1048 | 1020.000 | Market United | 5139 | 5339 | 0.75% | | | |
| 331 | For East Acc | 7426 | 7659.037 | Royal London Life Trust Mngs Ltd | 1238 | 94.7% | Market United | 5140 | 5340 | 0.75% | | | |
| 332 | For East Dis | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | |

Money Market Rate

| Contract | | Settlement price | Hig for |
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Action men in sibling partnership

Greg Wood on
brothers who
merged their
racing stables

One of the reasons why so many trainers are hopeless pipers is that, like doting parents at the school sports day, they refuse to believe that their little darlings can be anything other than the fittest and fastest in the class. Try as they might to avoid sentimentality, many of the horses become additions to the family, to be cherished and defended accordingly, and just as few parents would want to share their family with the one next door, the thought of mixing their string with that of a fellow trainer would not be an agreeable one.

One Lambourn stable, though, just such an arrangement is currently enjoying considerable success, but it is surely no coincidence that the trainers involved are family already. When a persistent virus stopped Simon Sherwood's training career in its tracks, convoy of horseboxes was dispatched to his yard in East Garston, and returned to Rhonehurst, for 14 years the base for Oliver, his brother, with Simon's entire string.

The two Sherwood operations were merged into one, and while Jockey Club bureaucracy allows only one name – Oliver's – on the licence, the new regime is very much a partnership of equals.

And three months in, it is proceeding very smoothly, with a 22 per cent strike rate and more than £110,000 banked in prize-money. There is also an easy air about Rhonehurst and the Sherwoods, a sense of confidence and optimism, which implies that the decision to unify their yards was a very shrewd one.

It is certainly not a half-hearted exercise, extending even to the respective brothers' stable dogs, which now scurry around the same kitchen table.

"Basically it's a totally straightforward business merger," Oliver says. "Of course there's going to be a few teething problems, but we've always got on well and we seem to have struck a good balance. Obviously, there was much more upheaval for Simon; he had to sell the yard and move into a new house, which was quite traumatic, but his owners have all been marvellous."

When Simon Sherwood suffered a double at Cheltenham on Gold Cup day, 1992, it was inconceivable that his time in East Garston would, within four years, reach such a con-



Champion Hurdle contender Large Action, pride of Rhonehurst stables, is fussed over by Oliver (left) and Simon Sherwood. Photograph: Peter Jay

clusion, but the virus which swept through his string was both stubborn and thorough. "Three seasons after the Festival double we just hit a brick wall," he says. "We were wiped out, just eight winners, and then we had to replace the whole lot and of the 26 we got, 12 of them were bumper horses. I wasn't making money, and it's easy to get on the slippery slope, waiting for a good winner. Suddenly, you're in a tricky financial situation."

Even so, the decision to join his brother was not sudden or one-sided. "It was a communal idea, really. We realised that we needed each other, not necessarily as people, but that our businesses needed each other."

"The fates had dealt me a couple of bad cards. I've always been a little like that, if I'm not going in the direction I want, then I'll get out before I have to fight through and come back and do the whole cycle."

Oliver's operation, meanwhile, has received an injection of vigour and new possibilities from which even such a successful yard can benefit after almost a decade and a half in the

business. Many fine animals have passed through his hands, The West Awake, Cruising Altitude and Arctic Call among them, while another, Large Action, is back in training after a long absence through injury and may yet win the Champion Hurdle which would reward his talent and durability.

'If ever a horse deserved to win the Champion Hurdle, it's him. He's a real pro, so easy to train'

Firm ground may rule him out of the Bula Hurdle, over the Champion's course and distance, at Cheltenham this weekend, but with his successful return to the track in a Grade One hurdle at Fairyhouse last month, Large Action has already provided Oliver Sherwood with one of the most

satisfying moments of his career.

"There are times when I could walk away from it all, when I just don't want the hassle," he says. "When an owner takes their horses away, or lets rip when you're doing your best. The vast majority of my owners are wonderful, but you get some nowadays with no animal sense at all, they want immediate returns and don't understand that animals are subject to stiffness and coughs. The grass is always greener and they switch round like the magi roundabout, just for the sake of it."

"But then you get a day like the one in Ireland with Large Action, and it makes it all worthwhile. I must admit that in the darkest tunnels I didn't think he'd come back to be a Champion Hurdle horse, and we could still move up to staying races if the speed's not quite there, but I'd love to think we could go to the Champion with a live chance. If ever a horse deserved to win it, it's him. He's a real pro, so easy to train. You can just keep giving him work and he'll bounce back for more."

Large Action may inevitably be identified with Oliver Sherwood, but between the brothers there is no displaced jealousy, no "he used to be mine" attitudes. "It would be well-nigh impossible if it was, say, a Sherwood and Kim Bailey joining up because both would retain their identity," Simon says.

"We will probably set out

some ground rules as we go along, but at the moment we're both feeling our way, getting to know each other's horses, rather than needing to delegate roles."

"Perhaps after the first year, we'll sit down and work out where our strengths and weaknesses are. Ultimately, Oliver probably has the final word to a certain extent, but I disagree with something, I'm certainly going to voice it, and then we'll talk it through."

"Basically it's just like any other partnership. The most important thing is to keep talking. And for as long as the masters of Rhonehurst keep talking, you can be fairly sure that they will keep training winners for more."

Cheltenham and will be aimed at another Festival target, perhaps the Stayers' Hurdle.

Sharpish, who easily beat

Moonax into second place yesterday, is 50-1 with the same firm. The winner of a 10-furlong handicap at Leicestershire in August for Sir Mark Prescott, Sharpish displayed distinct promise. But Nicky Henderson, his trainer, warned that the horse still had a lot to learn.

Moonax's chances of winning the Champion Hurdle looked remote after his defeat at odds of 8-13 when making his jumping debut at Huntingdon yesterday. The 1994 St Leger winner is now 33-1 with Hills for

Richard Edmondson

NAP: Daring Past (Hexham 2.50), NB: Fantasy Line (Leicester 1.00)

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Results, page 22

Moonax eclipsed

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Results, page 22

HEXHAM

HYPERION
12.50 Belle Rose 1.20 Manica 1.50 Willy Star
2.20 Anabanch 2.50 Daring Past 3.20 Young
Kenny

GODING: Good.
SIS: Handicapped course. Run-in of 250yd.

Course is on minor road 2½ south of Hexham. Signposted from town. Hexham station 2m. ADMISSION: Club 55; Paddock 5.00 (G/A) 5.40. CAR PARK: Free.

SIS: Handicapped

CHANGES:

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: An Appaloosa Appaloosa (3.20).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN: Belle Rose (2.50), Willy Star (1.20)

Long-distance runner from Darley, Fife; Cleopatra (3.20) sent 117 miles by Mrs C Coward from Thirskbury, North Yorkshire; Meadowside (1.50) sent 103 miles by W Young from Cartke, Strathclyde; Manica (1.50) sent 96 miles by J Quinn from Settrington, North Yorkshire.

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Long-distance runner from Darley, Fife; Cleopatra (3.20) sent 117 miles by Mrs C Coward from Thirskbury, North Yorkshire; Meadowside (1.50) sent 103 miles by W Young from Cartke, Strathclyde; Manica (1.50) sent 96 miles by J Quinn from Settrington, North Yorkshire.

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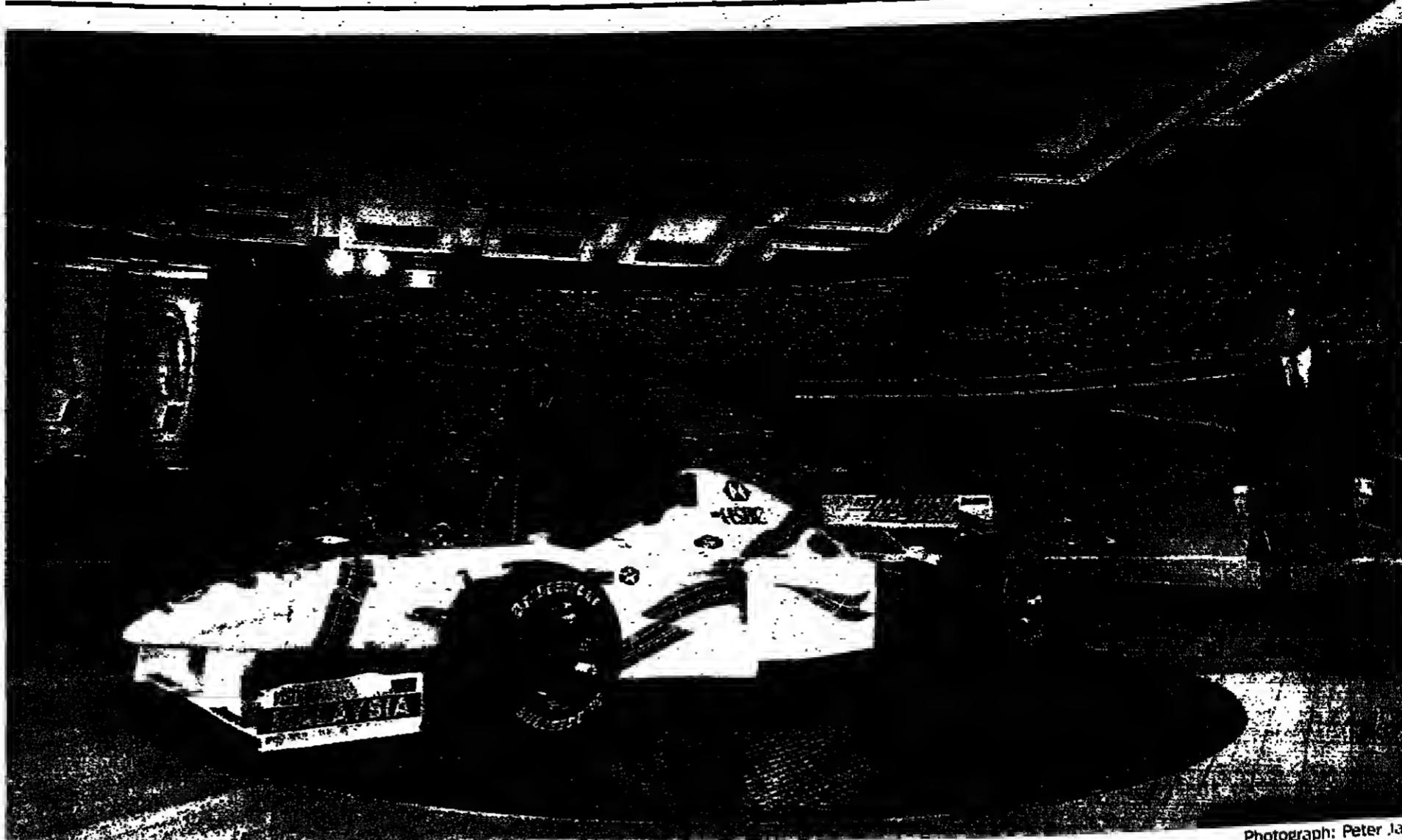
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Photograph: Peter Jay

Former world champion Jackie Stewart (right) and his son, Paul, flank the Stewart-Ford SF2, which was unveiled in London yesterday

Bonny birth of Stewart's new car

The tartan and a lone piper heralded a new Stewart period in Formula One, but the swirl of feather and tradition was waffled away with the unveiling of a sleek, white Ford-powered car yesterday.

Claymores and Bravehearts belong to another age, as Jackie Stewart will testify, and his first campaign as a team boss rather than a driver will be fought with the latest product of the computer era.

The Stewart-Ford SF1, on show in London's Grosvenor Square yesterday, has been just nine months in the designing and making, a technical triumph which may be a sign of achievement to come.

"The task of creating a new Formula One car from scratch in nine months is a formidable one," said the man who won the world championship three times, in 1969, 1971 and 1973. "To the best of my knowledge, this is the first Formula One car to have been designed by computer

Jackie Stewart's Formula One debutants have designed and manufactured their first car in nine months. **Derick Alisop** reports

from the outset." His son, Paul, managing director of the team, was even more fulsome. "In many ways it has been nothing short of a miracle," he said.

"It has been an enormous challenge to plan the timetable, keep to the budget and assemble so much in a relatively short period of time. Only the best is good enough in Formula One and we are confident we are reaching that benchmark."

Stewart Sui warned against any great expectations for the new team. "I would like to win one championship point - if we got more than that I would be thrilled," he said. "Top-10 finishes and top-10 qualifying in our first year would be pretty impressive. Not many teams have ever done that."

The clan's dream of running a grand prix operation drew

closer with every success they attained in the lower formulae in the shape of Paul Stewart Racing and became a reality with the signing of a £20m, five-year works deal with the engine manufacturers Ford.

Then came the task of recruiting personnel capable of excelling at this level, luring competitive drivers and attracting the necessary sponsorship to fund a £20m budget for the first season. Among the backing is a £5m-a-year agreement with the HKSB financial corporation and Malaysian Government.

Alan Jenkins, the technical director, said: "We started literally with an empty room. It was important to get key staff on board and we have attracted many talented people.

"Unlike the established teams in Formula One, we did

not have an existing car to provide us with a point of reference, but that can also be viewed as an advantage since you are able to start with a clear computer screen."

"It was inevitable that we could not hone the design details straight away because of unknown variables such as tyre choice and driver preferences. Nonetheless, we were able to meet our schedule."

Stewart, whose team are to use Bridgestone tyres, will shortly see his drivers, Brazil's Rubens Barrichello and the Dane, Jan Magnussen, testing in preparation for the new world championship season, which opens with the Australian Grand Prix, in Melbourne, on 9 March.

A five-year target to compete for the championship has been set, but there is another dimension to the venture. "This is more than motor racing to me," Stewart said. "It's also do with the Stewart family. When I re-



First F1 car to be designed by computer from the outset

tired from racing in 1973, what we are doing today would have been, for me, not even a glimpse of what was on the horizon.

"I have been very fortunate.

Motor racing has been my life and the sport has blessed me and my family with privilege, material benefits and opportunities to fulfil so many dreams."

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS: Folklore and fame on the fairways perused by **Andy Farrell**

Secrets and lies about the Garbo of golf

Golf instruction books have a tendency towards hyperbole in their titles - *Learn Golf in a Weekend and Break 100 in 28 Days* are the preposterous claims. One book, actually a biography, could claim to help you win the US Open. A week before Steve Jones did just that, a friend sent him a copy of *Hogan* (Rutledge Hill Press, £16.95, from Sportspages). "When I started reading it," Jones said, "I couldn't put it down."

There are fewer books about Ben Hogan than any other of the great players of the game but he is an inspiring story. Curt Sampson does a fine job of slicing through the myth and misinformation that surrounds the Garbo of golf, much of it not encouraged then certainly not denied or corrected by the man himself during his career.

The outline of the story centres on the suicide of his father when Ben was nine years old, his work ethic on the practice range, the car crash in 1949 in which he almost died and his monumental 1953 season in which he won the three majors he entered including the Open at Carnoustie. But

the detail is terrific, too. At Oakland Hills in 1951, Hogan had just won his third US Open when he was congratulated by Clayton Heafner, his main last-round challenger, who finished tied for second two shots back.

"Thanks, Clayton," Hogan said, "How'd you do?"

"Ben was only focused on himself," Jones said, back at Oakland Hills for the US Open 45 years later. "I kept telling myself what Hogan said - to focus on each shot and not to worry about the outcome. I honestly don't think I could have won without reading that book."

There are further parallels with Hogan's career. Late in 1991, Jones was involved in a bike accident which kept him off the tour for almost three years. A persistent finger injury led him to developing his reverse overlap grip. In January, Jones is favourite to receive the US tour's comeback award. It is named after Hogan.

The anecdotal style of instruction book was pioneered by Harvey Penick and his Little Green Book series. Two

of Britain's foremost golfing figures teamed up to produce *A in a Nutshell* (Hodder & Stoughton, £9.99). The wisdom and wit of John Jacobs, Ryder Cup player and captain, founder of the modern European tour and the guru of golf gurus, was committed to paper with the help of another master of his craft, the late Peter Doberreiner.

The subtitle is "The flight of the ball tells it all" and despite its modest length and price, this book flies long and high, drawing in the browser for an extended visit. The shortest passage is headed "Hopeless cases" and reads: "The only people whose golf cannot be improved are those who won't listen." Jacobs once told a very young Seve Ballesteros to cure his "rock-and-block" action or he would develop back trouble later on.

Evidently the Spaniard took no notice and after winning three Opens and two Masters had suffered severely in the lumbar region. But bad Ballesteros eradicated all the push-fades and the snap-hooks early on, we may not have been gifted with *Troubleshooter*

(with Robert Green, Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99).

Here are all the old favourites - escapes from trees and bushes, left-handed, back-handed and one-handed shots. But the earlier chapters may be of more use. The fundamentals of grip, stance and alignment are stressed and learning how to play from all manner of sloping lies and from sand will aid any golf game.

Laura Davies Naturally... (with Lewine Main, Bloomsbury, £16.99) has both instructional and also biographical sections. In the former the world No 1 describes what can be learned from watching the leading players while the latter offers details of both golf and gambling. Davies also appears as one of 50 biographies in *Liz Kahn's history of the women's game, The LPGA: The Unauthorized Version* (AA Publishing, £16.99). Although the superstars are all covered, the strength of the book is the equal space given to the stories of the less heralded.

Helen Dettwiler was a pilot in the

Women's Air Force during World War Two and became the first woman radio baseball commentator.

Betty Dodd nursed Zaharias in the final years before her death from cancer aged 42. Sandra Hayne was Martina Navratilova's mentor when she won her first Wimbledon. Subjects as diverse as racism, Christianity, glamour and lesbianism are all sensitively handled.

Also recommended: *A Good Walk Spoiled* by John Feinstein (Little, Brown & Co, £8.99, paperback version) - the opening two chapters provide stomach-churning insight into the Ryder Cup; *The Open Championship 1996* (Hazelton Publishing, £14.99) - day-by-day accounts and essays on Tom Lehman's triumph at Royal Lytham; *The Lazy Golfer's Companion* by Peter Alliss (Collins Willow, £12.99) - practical guide to getting the best out of your game; *The Greatest of them All - The Legend of Bobby Jones* by Martin Davis (The American Golfer, £40) and *Life & Times of Bobby Jones* by Sidney L Matthew (Sleeping Bear Press, £35) - large-scale tributes to the great amateur with evocative photography.

Academy vote still wide open

Sports politics

The Government yesterday kept its options wide open by placing exactly half of the bids to establish and run the British Academy of Sport on the second stage shortlist.

It had been expected that the 26 initial bids would be reduced to seven or eight. But the Sports Minister, Ian Spratt, and the United Kingdom Sports Council chairman, Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, yesterday unveiled a surprisingly large list of 13.

Among the favourites are the British Olympic Association bid, the Central Consortium and the "Athletes' Bid". It is planned that the winning bid will be announced early next year, when a formal application for Lottery funding will be made.

And second? The Athletes' bid offers better value for money (£100m), the Central Consortium (£100m), the University of Leicester, Bedford, Houghton Bridge, Buntingford, Milton Keynes, Northampton, Merseyside, Sheffield, Sports City Foundation (Festiniog), UK Academy 2000 (Nottingham),

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS GUIDE

FA Carling Premiership

1. Leeds v Tottenham

2. Also playing (not on co-schedule): Liverpool v Newcastle, Manchester United v Aston Villa, Birmingham v Chelsea, Playing Monday: Derby County v Bolton.

Wednesday: Birmingham v West Ham.

Friday: Nottingham Forest v Crystal Palace.

2. Oxford Utd v Shrewsbury Utd

3. Port Vale v Chesterfield

4. Norwich v Port Vale

5. Shrewsbury v Chesterfield

6. Wrexham v Chesterfield

7. Wednesday: Coventry v Chesterfield

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